# STARS STRIPES.

**Chris Rock rolls** into Oscars with confidence

Page 21



Female GI demoted over mud-wrestling incident in Iraq

1st ID steps up patrols in Iraq as tour nears end

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2005

Volume 63. No. 295

### THE 2006 DEFENSE BUDGET PROPOSAL

# **Army plan focuses on** force protection in '06

\$244M for more up-armored Humvees, heavy-chassis vehicles

### A truly Super dynasty

Patriots have place in history after third title in four years Coverage on Back page, Pages 30-33





Left: Patriots fans reach to touch the Vince Lombardi Trophy after New England beat the Philadelphia Eagles, 24-21, in Super Bowl XXXIX in Jacksonville, Fla., on Sunday. Right Patriots strong safety Rodney Harrison (37) celebrates his interception with Asante Samuel (22) late in the fourth quarter to seal the Patriots' victory over the Eagles.

Soldiers in Iraq hoped for Britney, beers during Super Bowl Page 9

### STARS STRIPES. COMING SOON



Busy days ahead for Green Day



Foxx among black actors getting kudos

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### ws Tracker ... What's new with old news

### World

Togo's new president: Togo's constitutional court swore in 39-year-old Faure Gnassingbe as this tiny West African nation's new president on Monday, despite volleys of international condemnation after the military installed him

as his late father's successor.

The six-member court conducted the ceremony at the presidential palace, where Gnassingbe raised his right hand to swear the oath

Gnassingbe comes to power in a tiny, impoverished country with little experience of rule of law. His father, Gnassingbe Eyadema, had held onto power longer than other modern African leader through force, natronage and the loyalty of his Kabye ethnic group and his Togo People's Rally party.

iling pope: Pope John Paul II will remain hospitalized a few more days as a pre caution, the Vatican said Monday, a day after the 84-year-old pope appeared at his clinic window to show the world he was recovering from his latest health crisis.

Papal spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said the pope, who he said was continuing to improve, had no fever, was eating regularly and has been sitting in a chair every day for several hours.

"His doctors have advised him to stay a few more days," Navarro-Valls said, declin-ing to set a date for the pope's release.

"I cannot be precise about how many days more" in the hospital, he said. "But the doctors have suggested several more days."

orgian prime minister's death: The FBI is sending a team of experts to look into last week's death of Georgia's premier and a car bombing that killed three policemen days earlier, the U.S. ambassador said Monday

The death Thursday of Prime Minister Zurab Zhvania, which officials say appears to have come from carbon-monoxide poisoning, and the car bombing in Gori two days earlier left many Georgians feeling unsettled and some suggested there may have been a link between the events.

Zhvania was leading efforts to work out a negotiated settlement on South Ossetia, a region that has been de-facto independent since the end of a separatist conflict a de-Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili has vowed to restore control of South Ossetia and another senaratist region.

Dutch terror network: Prosecutors opened their case Monday against 12 men accused of belonging to a terror network sus-pected in the murder of filmmaker Theo van Gogh and plots to attack prominent Dutch politicians

The defendants, mostly young Muslims of North African ancestry, were arrested within days of van Gogh's death on Nov. 2 killing that shocked the nation and triggered retaliatory attacks on Islamic sites.

Van Gogh, a distant relative of painter Vincent van Gogh, was shot and stabbed on a busy Amsterdam, Netherlands, street. The killer cut his throat and, in a note pinned to the filmmaker's chest with a knife, threatened other attacks in the name of radical

1998 Omagh bombing: Ireland's anti-terrorist court ruled Monday it could not help



Reagan's birthday: Maj. Gen. Timothy Donovan, commanding officer of the U.S. Marine Corps Base at Camp Pendleton, Calif., salutes after he and others placed a wreath, sent by President Bush, at the grave of former president Ronald Reagan. Ceremonies were held Sunday on what would have been Reagan's 94th birthday at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, Calif.. Former Gov. Pete Wilson also was on hand at the celebration conducted by Camp Pendleton Marines. The Marines then honored the nation's 40th chief executive with a 21-gun salute.

survivors of the 1998 Omagh bomb - the deadliest terrorist attack in Northern Ireland history — who are suing five prominent Irish Republican Army dissidents.

The three judges of the Special Criminal Court ruled it would be illegal to provide transcripts or any other material related to the court's handling of cases against four of the five men

Plane crash in Afghanistan: NATO troops scouring the wreckage of an Afghan airliner atop a snowy mountain peak on Monday found human remains amid the debris but no sign that any of the 104 people on board survived the crash, a spokesman said.

Relatives swarmed toward the freezing mountain to try to retrieve the hodies, but they were turned back by Afghan security forces struggling to mount a recovery opera

Clear skies allowed a Spanish Cougar helicopter to drop five Slovenian mountain troops onto the mountain top 20 miles east of Kabul, on Monday morning, where they struggled through the deep snow among several pieces of torn fuselage.

Red Brigades trial: Five suspected members of the Red Brigades terrorist group went on trial Monday for their alleged roles in the 2002 killing of a labor consultant. Marco Biagi, who was advising the Italian

overnment on bitterly contested labor reforms, was shot to death near his home in Naples in 2002. Days later, the Red Brigades-Combatant Communist

claimed responsibility. The group is an offshoot of the radical leftist organization that terrorized Italy in the 1970s and 1980s

Paris airport terminal collapse: A government-appointed board of inquiry investigating the nartial collanse of a Paris airport terminal found serious errors in construction, including concrete that had not been sufficiently reinforced, a newspaper reported Monday

But the government's Transport Ministry said the inquiry and its report were not com-pleted and indicated the conclusions published by the daily Le Parisien were "totally premature."

The newspaper said that after nine months of work, the inquiry commission found "several serious errors in the concep-tion" of the futuristic Terminal 2E at Charles de Gaulle airport.

### States

Smuggling deaths trial: Jury selection in the trial of a New York man accused of taking part in a smuggling attempt that resulted in the deaths of 19 illegal immigrants was again delayed Monday.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals granted a request by prosecutors to put the trial on hold while it decides whether to overturn a judge's ruling to have two juries decide the fate of Tyrone Williams.

The trial in the nation's deadliest smuggling attempt was put on hold last month after Williams' attorneys asked the U.S. Supreme Court to make public details about why he is the only one of 14 indicted defendants in the case who faces the death penal-

BTK investigation: The BTK serial killer investigation is being used as a teaching tool in college criminal justice courses around the country.

The killer known as BTK - which stands for "Bind, Torture, Kill" — has been linked to eight unsolved killings in Wichita, Kan., from 1974 through 1986. BTK resurfaced last March with letters to Wichita media and police.

"It's a very compelling case," said Volkan Topalli, an assistant professor in the criminal justice department at Georgia State University in Atlanta. "There's a lot of material

Michael Jackson trial: Jury selection in the Michael Jackson molestation case has been delayed, but media efforts to learn more about who might eventually sit in judgment of the entertainer are moving ahead.

Attorneys for news organizations were to ask Santa Barbara County (Calif.) Superior Court Judge Rodney S. Melville on Monday to allow reporters to view completed ques tionnaires filled out last week by 250 prospective jurors.

"It's really vital for the public to be able to have access to the questionnaires while the selection process is occurring ... to serve as a check on the process," said media lawyer Theodore Boutrous, who represents The Associated Press and other news organiza-

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

# SAVE WITH WINTER CASH!





\*Rate shown is Annual Percentage Rate, accurate as of \$1/01/05 and subject men a service expert and oblication of the internals has general beautry, almost and difficus 25 the spin revendence for learner application leaves operated learners in 25 the leaves 15 the leaves 1

### **DEFENSE BUDGET PROPOSAL 2006**

The Army is budgeting \$224 million for 360 up-armored Humvees and 1.705 heavy esis Humvees in 2006.

> R.J. ORIEZ Stars and Strin



# **Army prioritizes vehicles**

By LISA BURGESS Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. - The Army largely will stand fast while De-fense Department reviews take place in 2005, but one area they will attack is force protection

The Army is budgeting \$1.025 billion for "mobility assets," a senior Army budget official said Friday, including \$451.5 million for 3,196 tactical medium vehicles and \$224 million for 360 up-armored Humvees and 1,705 heavy chassis Humvees.

The Army budget also includes \$875 million to buy 240 Stryker tactical wheeled vehicles, enough to outfit the Army's sixth Stryker

Brigade However, the Army is not planning to buy any additional tanks in fiscal 2006, although \$443 million has been set aside to buy 399 new engines for the M1 Abrams tank

Many more weapons and vehicles will be purchased with sup-plemental funds, including more armored Humvees and kits to add armor to vehicles already in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Although basically flat at \$11.8 billion compared with \$10.4 billion in 2005, the Army's procure-ment budget request includes program increases for several programs, with an emphasis on "force protection systems." the official said.

That means the service plans to



The Army's proposed budget for 2006 includes \$875 million to buy 240 Stryker tactical wheeled vehicles, enough to outfit the sixth Stryker Brigade

### See related story on Page 12

crew-served weapons to outfit combat support units, which in the past typically have been short of these assets

The Army also has asked for \$1.7 billion to buy training and reserve ammunition, with an emphasis on rounds for the M-4 and M-16 rifles and M-9 pistols carried by the entire force.

The Army is the only service whose fiscal 2006 budget line is flat compared with 2005, but it doesn't matter, officials said: the Army will get "the lion's share" of

a \$75 billion supplemental request for Iraq and Afghanistan that the Bush administration ex-pects to seek from Congress later this week Army officials said they are not

permitted to discuss the supple-mental in detail until the Defense Department releases the entire re-

The Army budget request for fiscal 2006 is \$98.6 billion. Congress allocated the service \$98.9 billion for fiscal 2005

"Basically the budget just sus-tains the level we're at," the official said, funding 482,400 soldiers in the active Army, 205,000 troops in the Army Reserve, and 350,000 troops in the Army Na-

### **Bush administration** readies supplemental war budget for 2006

BY LISA BURGESS Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. - The Bush administration is taking the same approach to defense spending in fiscal 2006 it began with the 2004 budget: presenting a "baseline" request to Congress that is only slightly different from the previous year, but adding billions more with a supplemental request to cover op-

erations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Congressional Democrats have been critical of the Bush administration's ongoing use of supplementals to fund the war, saying the requests make it easier for defense officials to avoid congressional oversight of war spending and play a

avoid congressional oversight of war spending and play a shell game with defense spending.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, Congress has approved \$203 billion in supplemental requests. If the latest request is approved, that goes up to \$280 billion.

But defense officials defend the practice, saying that the se-curity situation in Iraq, especially, is so unpredictable that using the regular budget to fund the operation would be too restrictive

Because supplemental requests are put together much more quickly than regular budgets, defense officials said they have more flexibility to move and add money as conditions on the ground change.

"We are bearing, clearly, the heavy burden in this war," a senior Army budget official said Friday. "The base budget would not allow us to mobilize our forces."

"We can be more accurate in our estimates," another official added. "It's not hiding anything.

Some analysts disagree "The war is not a surprise anymore," said Steve Kosiak, a top analyst for the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assess-ment in Washington. "We know we're going to be there. Not

[budgeting] for war costs is really inexcusable at this point. This administration came into office saying they would not play all these games with supplementals, but they've crossed the line, I'd say," he said.

### SEE FUNDS ON PAGE 4

The budget request includes a percent, across-the-board 3.1 percent, across-the-board raise for active-duty soldiers, which will cost taxpayers \$696 million per year, as well as a 2.3 percent raise for Army civilians.

In the past, the Army has asked for raises calculated on rank and time in service. In 2006, however, "the sensing is that we have relieved a lot of the [inequalities] in the pay tables, so there's no need for targeted pay raises," the official said The basic allowance for hous-

ing, meanwhile, will go up by 4 percent, to accommodate cost of living increases. The Army eliminated out-of-pocket housing costs in fiscal 2005, and the 2006 remest will continue that policy

and other quality of life efforts, will be funded at their 2005 lev-None of the funding for person-

such as health care,

personnel programs,

education

nel programs will be cut.

The Army's family housing budget request is \$1.4 billion in 2006, compared with the \$1.6 billion allocated in 2005. The decrease does not reflect direct cuts to family housing, however. Since 2000, the Army has been shifting the costs of operating much of its housing to the private sector, so the service's family housing costs continue to drop.

E-mail Lisa Burgess at:

### Fewer Raptors, airmen for Air Force Force officials. Overall spending would be

BY LEO SHANE III

Stars and Stripe:

WASHINGTON - The Air Force would see more money but fewer airmen under the Defense Department's 2006 budget pro posal.

The 6 percent increase Pentagon officials have asked for is based on a reduction of about 2,300 active-duty airmen and another 2,100 drop in reservist numbers. Service officials estimate about 3,800 of those posts will be filled by civilian employees instead

That change is part of ongoing efforts by the force to "remove the military from non-military jobs." Also, all airmen would receive a 3.1 percent base pay increase, but civilian Air Force employees would see only a 2.3 percent bump in their salary.

The proposed \$102.9 billion budget was briefed to reporters Friday by senior Air increased by \$6.9 billion, up more than 6 percent from FY 2005. But officials blamed nearly \$800 million of that on in-But officials creased fuel prices, and another \$2.1 billion on inflationary costs.

The budget includes plans for the service to build and renovate more than 7 200 housing units next year. However, the fate of major weapons sys-

tems, including the F/A-22 Raptor and C-130J Hercules, has been put on hold. Production of the highly coveted F/A-22 was kept flat in the budget, and plans to buy more C-130J cargo planes in 2006 were canceled

Senior Air Force officials say decisions on long-term productions of those and other systems won't be answered unt after a pair of force readiness studies won't be answered until the quadrennial defense review and the

Pentagon's mobility and capability study are finished later this year.

And while the F/A-22 funding will actually decrease by about \$300 million under the plan, officials made it clear they hope force strength studies will support increas-ing production of the stealth fighter, which they see as the long-term replacement for the force's aging fighter force.

As recently as two years ago, service officials said they needed 381 of the aircraft, but current budget plans would pay for only 179 of them over the next decade.

Air Force researchers will take over research and development of unmanned combat planes in 2006, and \$350 million is proposed to pay for that work.

The budget proposal also calls for \$226 million for creation of a unified space radar system for the entire U.S. intelli-gence community. In the last two years



LOCKHEED MARTIN/AF

The Air Force's F/A-22 Raptor continues to face a steep climb for funding

about \$240 million has been spent on the system, which is scheduled to be operational in 2015.

F-mail Leo Shane at: shanel@strines.osd.mil

### **DEFENSE BUDGET PROPOSAL 2006**

# Carrier to be cut under Navy budget plan

BY JON R. ANDERSON Stars and Strines

ARLINGTON, Va. - The Navy wants to cut one of its 12 aircraft carriers, jettison more than 13,000 sailors from its active rolls and slow the purchase of new ships and aircraft, according to the Navy's portion of the 2006 defense budget proposal.

The good news, say service officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, is that with the extra \$6.4 billion they're getting over the \$119 billion approved last year, they'll be able to provide new special pay and bonus money, more housing allowances, stipends for living overseas as well as increases to fleet maintenance and training. The proposal calls for increasing sailors

base pay by 3.1 percent and civilian salaries by 2.3 percent. Officials refused to announce which of

the Navy's 12 carriers would be cut.

The Mayport, Fla.-based USS John F. Kennedy and Japan-based USS Kitty Hawk are the fleet's two oldest carriers and only remaining conventionally powered big decks.

Kitty Hawk, however, is already slated for decommissioning in 2008, the same year the next nuclear-powered carrier the George H.W. Bush - comes online, leaving Kennedy as a likely option.

Still, cautioned the officials amid reporter speculation, "some of our oldest carriers are not in the worst material condition."

One official also hinted at a shakeup in homeports for the carrier fleet.

"Certainly there is concern at the Department of the Navy on having all of our carriers at one port," the Navy official said, referring to the fleet concentrations in San Diego and Norfolk, Va. He said an environmental study had been earmarked in this budget to look at basing a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier in Mayport. "That's certainly a consideration," he

Whichever carrier is cut, its correspond-

ing air wing will remain. The long-term savings of cutting a carri-



The USS John F. Kennedy is rumored to be the aircraft carrier the Navy would cut out of its fleet under the 2006 defense budget plan.

er will be about \$300 million per year, much of that coming from personnel savings, he said

Those cuts will be part of the 13,200 sail-ors the plan would drop from active duty next year. The official said the service ould save \$404 million this year - and \$1 billion a year after that — by cutting its ac-tive duty rolls from 365,000 to 352,700 next

While the Navy will be shrinking, that

time underway, he said

"I don't think any of this means more sea time," the official said

The Navy will add 23 new jets and helicopters to the fleet next year under the budget request as well as three surface combatants and two logistics ships. It will lose, however, a planned attack submarine, and the purchase of a slew of new ships and aircraft will be slowed down in the coming

In all, the fleet will go from 285 ships to

289 ships next year, if the budget is approved, but slowly increase to a planned 305 ships by 2011.

The Navy's purchase of its new F/A-18E/F Super Hornet, which is set to replace four types of aircraft on the flightdeck, stays on course with another 38 strike fighters entering the fleet next year, plus another four of its radar-jamming vari-

E-mail Jon R. Anderson at:

### **Funds:** Army awaits \$5B for setting up three new BCTs

### FUNDS, FROM PAGE 3

The supplemental request will pay for all the costs associated with Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, including the salaries of an additional 18,000 active-duty soldiers who are now on the payroll; the cost of refurbishing equipment lost or worn out in Iraq and Afghani stan; the ammunition expended by U.S. troops in those countries; and equipping, housing, feeding

and entertaining deployed troops.

But the supplemental also will pay for more than just direct war costs. Army officials are counting on receiving \$5 billion in the upcoming request to create and equip three new brigade combat teams - the service's new self-sufficient, lighter, high-tech "transformational" unit with about 4,000 soldiers.

Paying for the three new brigade combat teams in the supplemental is kosher, an Army of-ficial said, even though the units will be a permanent part of the Army, not just something cobbled together in response to the Iraq or Afghanistan operations.

'These are forces we are deploying to the battle space," the official said. When Army units return from Iraq rotations, "we are resetting them [as BCTs] to go right back into the war.'

### USMC planned purchases rolled back

BY JON R. ANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. - Marines are hoping to man two new infantry battalions, three Light Armored Reconnaissance Companies and several new support units being added to the active forces. according to the Defense Department's 2006 budget request.

But the service will have to wait longer for the fielding of the new V-22 tilt-rotor Osprey and amphibious Expeditionary Assault Vehicle, according to officials who spoke on condition of anonymity

In all, the White House hopes to put \$17.5 billion into the corps coffers next year. The proposal calls for increasing Marines' base pay by 3.1 percent and civilian salaries by 2.3 percent.

Manpower for the new units will come from job conversions that put civilians into positions that some 2,500 Marines had been filling, according to a senior Pentagon official who briefed reporters Friday.

Meanwhile, an additional 3,000 Marines will be temporarily added to the Corps' active strength of 175,000 in a separate "supplemental" budget re-quest expected to go to Congress soon.



According to the 2006 defense budget proposal, the Marine Corps will cut the purchase of its . V-22 tilt-rotor Osprey next year from 15 to nine.

VERNON PUGH

Cash for new bonus money is also expected to be part of the Corps' portion of the supplemental.

The Corps is projecting it will buy 1,310 new Humvees and 77 of its 155 mm Howitzers as part of its \$1.4 billion procurement budget proposal for 2006.

The Marines will cut the purchase of the still-developmental V-22 tilt-rotor Osprey next year from 15 to nine. In 2007, purchases will be cut in half from

29 to 14. In all, over the next four years, plans now call for the Corps to buy a total of 72 Ospreys instead of the 107 that had been planned.

The Expeditionary Assault Vehicle, slated to begin replacing the Corps' aging fleet amphibious armored vehicles this year, now won't begin hitting units until 2007, according to service of-

# Merger of task force's staffs bolters capabilities

### CTF-67 aircraft offers support for maritime security patrols

BY SANDRA JONTZ Stars and Stripes

ATR SIGONELLA, Sicily -- The joining of Combined Task Force 67's operational and headquarters staff in Sigonella has created a synergy and increased the unit's capabilities, Navy officials say. As part of the Navy's transfor-

mation efforts in Europe, the headquarters moved to Sigonella in October from Naples, Italy, joining the headquarters staff with the operational sailors who carry out the day-to-day missions.

But the change is much more than just a physical move, said Rear Adm. C. Van Mauney, director of Navy Europe Plans and Op-

'We capitalize on current technology and look for ways to use new technology, employing better business practices and putting new operational concepts into play that support European command's focus to the South and East," Van Mauney said in a statement. "CTF-67 is focusing on all those areas and the result is that their operations have increased their value and have made specific contributions to our theater priorities

At the heart of CTF-67 are the squadrons of P-3 Orions that deploy to Sigonella every six months, providing maritime surveillance and reconnaissance for U.S. and NATO forces, he said The task force is made up of land-based maritime patrol aircraft that operate over the Mediterranean, mostly in anti-submarine, recon-



roles "They're out there looking at vessels transiting the high seas, looking for the potential bad actors,

said CTF-67 commander, Navy Capt. Robert Lally.

But the versatile P-3 aircraft, originally made to hunt for subs. doesn't have to stick to the high seas to track the enemy, as was proven in missions flown over Afghanistan, Iraq and Liberia, he said.

"The concept is to search, locate, trace and put a ship in tow said Lally, who moved to Sigonella this fall from Japan to com-mand the task force. "The same concept can be put in practice over land. [The aircraft] can provide the eyes over the horizon.'

The task force, one of eight units under the U.S. Sixth Fleet command, provides tactical mis-



JESSE L. PAQUIN/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

A P-3C Orion assigned to the "Mad Foxes" of Patrol Squadron Five makes its final approach to land at Naval Air Station Sigonella, Sicily, during routine flight operations. The "Mad Foxes" are deployed in support of the war on terrorism.

### 'Mad Foxes': World travelers in the war on terror

BY SANDRA JONTZ

Stars and Stripes

NAVAL AIR STATION SIGONELLA. Sici-- The "Mad Foxes" have traveled from El Salvador to Bahrain to help fight the global war on terror. The 430 sailors of Patrol Squadron 5 —

though based at Naval Air Station, Jacksonville. Fla. — are currently flying their four P-3 Orions out of Sigonella during a six-month routine deployment.

The unit's sailors, such as Petty Officer 3rd Class Jeremy Fox, have been trekking around the world

Fox. 21. an aviation electrician's mate spent about a month-and-a-half at the end of last year in El Salvador maintaining one of the squadron's aircraft that was aiding the U.S. Coast Guard and El Salvadoran military to track vessels possibly smuggling nar-

And while he might not be on the front lines, Fox said, he's out there making a difference and seeing the world — two reasons why he joined the service more than three

The squadron got its name in 1948 after being equipped with the first Lockheed P2V Magnetic Anomaly Detector, or MAD device that can detect a submerged subma-

The Sigonella deployment, which started in early December, has some sailors working outside their rates

Petty Officer 3rd Class David Bergeron, an aviation electronics technician by trade, has taken on the task as the "barracks super."

ty-of-life guy at the barracks, trying to keep everyone happy. If they're happy there, they're happy here," said the 22-year-old sailor during an recent interview at the squadron's hangar.

No one VP squadron calls Sigonella home, at least not for long. A new one rotates in

every six months, providing the surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities needed to meet requirements for the U.S. Sixth

The reason for the move is that it's cheaper for the Navy to de-The squadron got its ploy a squadron from its home base than to name in 1948 after being pay the permanent change-of-station equipped with the first costs to base sailors Lockheed P2V Magnetic and their families at Sigonella, said Navy Anomaly Detector, or Capt. Robert Lally,

> Force 67. The de-ployed squadrons fall under his command. Deploying to places such as Sigonella can be tough on the

commanding officer of Combined Task

squadron's members, said Cmdr. Sean Cannon, the squadron's commanding officer. "Our biggest challenge is that this is not

our hangar, and we have to get used to working in someone else's home," he said.

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sion support to both U.S. and NATO maritime patrol aircraft. said Lally, who is known as "commodore," a courtesy title that harkens to the late 18th century when the Navy's highest rank was captain, and those in com-

mand of squadrons of ships or aircraft were called commo-

Sailors assigned to CTF-67 also are helping the U.S. Coast Guard and El Salvadoran military detect vessels that might be

transporting narcotics. Some soon will deploy to Africa to join the USS Emory S. Land in the Gulf of Guinea to help African nations boost maritime security.

CTF-67 also participates in a

MAD — a device that can

detect a submerged

submarine.

variety of NATO and coalition exercises, and now are gearing up for next month's annual exercise Noble Marlin with militaries from Canada, France, Portugal and Italy.

E-mail Sandra Jontz at: jontzs@mail.estripes.o

# Lakenheath continues tsunami-aid efforts

BY RON JENSEN Stars and Strines

RAF LAKENHEATH, England After donating more \$25,000 for the victims of the tsu-nami in South Asia, the people at RAF Lakenheath are now offering items to an orphanage in Sri Lanka caring for hundreds of people affected by the natural disas-

Everything from blankets to buckets and tinned goods to toothpaste is needed in the country where about 30,000 were killed and more than 6,000 are still miss-

Elise Preston, one of the organizers of both efforts, said the items would be placed in a container sent by ship to the Sri Lankan orphanage run by the Rev. Francisco Lloyd Fernando. She

Catholic Church in Thetford, near the base, and suggested the hase heln

out One truckload of goods already has been sent to the Thetford church, she said, and another load of will items soon make its way

there. A parishioner the church purchased a container

to carry the items. This effort follows a basewide drive that raised \$25,276.90. The lief Services, World Vision and the American Red Cross. \$11,000 raised during a special



That includes

collection by congregations at the base chapel on Jan. 22 and 23, said Chaplain (Lt. Col. John

the

48th Fighter Wing chaplain

more than

"That was the largest collection we had over the last 12 months," he said. "Everybody wanted to

help." That money was added to funds

money was given to Catholic Re-

gathered by other organizations on base. Preston said Master Sgt. Gabriel Eldridge of the 48th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron began an effort to raise money. She contacted him to help and was told he was transferring and

his colleagues were deploying. Preston took over the effort and enlisted the help of the Keystone Club and the Junior ROTC at the high school and the Officers and Civilians Spouses' Club, among others groups. Collection buckets were set up around the base for

"I think everyone felt so helpless," she said. She said one person put a check for \$1,000 in a bucket

At RAF Feltwell, the kindergarten pupils of Wanda Wood were doing their part. They sold mixes

of cocoa and coffee in plastic containers, raising \$206, which was donated to the American Red Cross

The mixes were homemade by the children and included such items as instant coffee or cocoa. coffee creamers and, in the case

of the coffee, crushed candy canes for a minty flavor, among other ingredients "I have to say, they were very

good," Wood said. She used the disaster and the fund-raising effort as a teaching tool across the curriculum, from geography and social studies to

The highlight came, she said, when the representative from the Red Cross visited to collect the

"They were very, very proud," she said of her children. E-mail Ron Jensen at: iensenr@mail.estripes.osd.mil

# flashing incident

BY MARTHA WAGGONER The Associated Press

- Military officials have demoted a fe male member of a National Guard military police unit for indecent exposure after a mud-wrestling party at the Camp

Bucca detention center in Iraq.

Lt. Col. Barry Johnson, spokesman for detainee operations at the U.S. Army-run camp, did not release the name of the soldier, who lifted her shirt and showed her chest in pho-

tographs taken at the party. The New York Daily News identified her as Deanna Allen, 19, and Allen's mother, Ladyna Waldrop of Black Mountain,

confirmed the identification.

Several photographs of the party printed in the Daily News showed women wrestling in bras and panties in front

of a crowd of male soldiers. After an inquiry, Allen was demoted from specialist to private first class, received a pay cut and was placed on restriction. She is still a guard at the camp, the newspaper said.

non. She is still a guard at the camp, the newspaper said. Waldrop said her daughter is devastated by the events. "It was just a thing where she was coerced by a bunch of people, and with all the excitement, she lost her sanity for a moment and that's all it took," she said.

"It seems like they're just singling her out," Waldrop said.
"She's the one getting all the publicity and punishment, and that's not right" that's not right

The party occurred Oct. 30, as the 160th Military Police Battalion, an Army Reserve Unit from Tallahassee, F pared to turn over its duties to the Asheville-based 105th Military Police Battalion, Johnson said

In the course of the transfer of duties, "some individuals in their exuberance decided to put together a mud-wrestling

thing," Johnson said Sunday.

Photos of the party were found after the 160th had left Iraq, Johnson said, adding that he understood a soldier had

turned over the photos to commanders.

Johnson said it appeared the party was "primarily put on by troops of the 160th," and results of the inquiry were sent to the unit's commander. It wasn't immediately clear if any members of the 160th had been disciplined.

Four or five other members of the 105th who were specta-

tors at the party received counseling, Johnson said.

Johnson said the party was not held within sight of detainees. A scandal involving the separate Abu Ghraib prison erupted last spring when photographs were made public showing soldiers taunting naked Iraqi prisoners.

### MP demoted after Learning in unexpected places

### 'Toilet bowl math' wins over Darmstadt pupils

BY JESSICA INIGO Stars and Stripes

DARMSTADT, Germany Darmstadt Elementary School staff likes it when pupils have accidents in the bathrooms - or anywhere else for that matter

In fact, school principal Russ Claus is spearheading an effort to make accidents more commonplace throughout the school.

The effort is called "accidental learning," and it works by putting up math problems in otherw se iinii spaces. The hope is to catch a child off guard and sharpen his or her skills without the youngster even knowing it.

Claus said he got the idea from stateside restrooms that used the blank space above men's room urinals as an area to get in a good sports read or a funny advertisement.

So he came back to the school armed with mathematical word prob lems, placed them in plastic sleeves and taped them at pupil height above urinals, on the walls of restroom stalls, near sinks, and at the entranc-

"I call it toilet bowl math," Claus said, laughing. "It's really fun to lis-ten to. Out in the hallways you can hear students discussing it. They like it so much that they've even asked if we could put more up so they could do them during recess on the playground.

Rebekah McNichol, a paraprofessional at the elementary school, has taken over the duties of making fresh and fun math problems on a regular basis to keep the cycle of learning



9, ponders one of his favorite math problems, which he got out of one of the stalls in the boy's restroom at the Darmstadt Elementary School in Germany.

IESSICA INICO

"I like it. It really motivates me and helps me out," said 9-year-old Isaac O'Neil, who says he sometimes uses the problems as an excuse to get away from it all.

"For example, if I'm having a hard day and I just want to cool down, I can take the time in the bathroom to do the problem," Isaac said.

It's not all just about accidental learning, though, Sometimes the elementary school staff likes when it's done on purpose, too.

As part of the Making Math Matter program at Darmstadt Elementary School, children are tackling problems all over the place.

The Problem of the Week program allows pupils to test their knowledge and choose between a primary or graduate problem and then submit it

A family math night is coming up Feb. 16, focusing on math standards in a game format. That way, it's fun for the whole family, Claus said.

Even the military thinks math matters, as troops from the 39th Finance Battalion, out of the 233rd Base Support Battalion, come out for weekly visits to be math mentors Pupils in fourth and fifth grades

could participate in the before-school Math Challengers programs on Tues-days from 7:30 to 8:15 a.m. With the Measuring Up program,

classrooms use an indoor-outdoor thermometer to chart temperature changes and teachers put up yardsticks so things can be measured when needed throughout the day.

Finally, a Mathematics Hall of Fame highlights pupils' research, as well as a 3-D interactive display with sound and games.

This all shows, with or without accidents, math truly matters, according

to Claus E-mail Jessica Inigo at: inigoj@mail.estripes.osd.mil

### **IMA-Europe honors journalists**

Officials from the Installation Management Agency-Europe have announced their 2004 Keith L. Ware journalism award winners.

- In the print category, they are:
- Tabloid newspaper Herald Union, 104th Area Support Group, Hanau, Germany:
- News article Scott Rouch, 98th ASG, Würzburg,
- Feature article Jayme Loppnow, 233rd Base Support Battalion, Darmstadt, Germany:
- Commentary Hugh C. McBride, 6th ASG, Stuttgart, Germany; ■ Sports article — Michael S. Mowrer, 26th ASG,
- Heidelberg, Germany; ■ Story series — Junel Jeffrey, 221st Base Support Bat-
- talion, Wiesbaden, Germany;

  Stand-alone photograph Diana Bahr, 22th ASG, Vicenza, Italy:
- Photojournalism Christine June, 415th BSB, Kaiserslautern, Germany; ■ Contribution by stringer (writer) — Tom Larscheid,
- 80th ASG, Chièvres, Belgium:
- Contribution by stringer (photographer) Gene Knudsen, 26th ASG, Heidelberg;
  ■ Civilian Journalist of the Year — Hugh C. McBride,
- 6th ASG, Stuttgart; ■ Special achievement in print media — The Citizen, 6th ASG, Stuttgart;
  - In the broadcast category ■ Command Information Plan — Donna Dean, 221st
- BSB, Wiesbaden. Winners will compete in the upcoming Army-wide competition.

rom staff reports

# Photos from the Front



ABOVE Sgt. Robert Pulliam, Troop D, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, refuels a UH-60 Black Hawk at the Afghan National Army Regional Corps Assistance Group base outside Herat, Afghanistan.

Photo provided by U.S. Army

BELOW Master Sgt. Eileen Konopacki guides Sgt. Charles D. Duncan, Headquarters and Headquarters Company Coalition
Task Force Bronco, through preventive maintenance checks and
services on a .50-caliber machine gun in Afghanistan.

Photo by Monica R. Garreau, U.S. Army

RIGHT Two soldiers with the 367th Engineer Battalion erect the frame for a generator shelter. The frames were added to all generators at Shindand Airfield, Afghanistan, to protect them from the harsh winter weather.

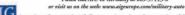
Photo provided by U.S. Army





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Residents look through the windows of a van destroyed during an overnight patrol by American and Iraqi soldiers in the Sadr City area of western Baghdad on Monday. According to eyewitnesses, an Iraqi man was shot by U.S. or Iraqi forces during the incident.

# Attacks on police station, hospital kill at least 30

BY MARIAM FAM The Associated Press

BAGHDAD - Insurgents struck at Iraqi police with a suicide bomb, a car bomb and mortars in the of Mosul and Baqouba on Monday, killing at least 30 people as they pressed their campaign to un-dermine the fledgling security forces.

Also Monday, U.S. troops manning a checkpoint found four Egyptian technicians who had been kidnanned the previous day in Baghdad freeing them and arresting some of the abductors, an Egyptian

"It's the Americans who freed them. Mabrouk, head of the Egyptian mission, told The As sociated Press. "They were released and they will come to the embassy

He said the Americans had "made some arrests but gave no further information.

In Baqouba, a car bomb exploded outside the gates of a provincial police headquarters, killing 15 people and wounding 17, police Col. Mudhahar al-Jubouri said. Many victims were there to seek jobs as policemen, al-Jubouri said.

In the northern city of Mosul, a suicide bomber blew himself up inside the compound of Jumhouri Teaching Hospital, killing 12 policemen guarding the

site and injuring four others, hospital officials said. The bomb went off outside the hospital building, hospital Director Tahseen Ali Mahmoud al- Obeidi said. Witnesses said the homber called the police officers over to him and then blew up among the

"I heard an explosion. When I went to check, I saw bodies everywhere," al-Obeidi said.

The ground was soaked with blood. Nurses collected body parts, putting them in bags

In a posting on a Web site, the al-Oaida in Iraq group, led by Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, said "a lion from the Martyrs Brigade" wearpost at the Mosul hospital. The claim could not be

Also Monday, insurgents shelled a police station in Mosul with more than a dozen mortar rounds, kill-

ing three civilians, a police official said.

Mosul, Iraq's third-largest city, has seen daily insurgent attacks and rebel clashes with U.S. troops and Iraqi security forces

ing an explosives belt managed to get inside a police There was no claim for the Bagouba attack

The attacks were the latest sign that insurgents

are stepping up attacks against Iraq's security forces, which the United States hopes can assume a greater role in fighting the rebels once a newly elected government takes office.

The violence and kidnappings raise new concerns about security following a brief downturn in violence after the Jan. 30 elections, when Iraqis chose a new National Assembly in the first nationwide balloting since the fall of Saddam Hussein in April 2003.

A final tally was expected by Thursday, but initial returns point to a landslide by Shiite Muslim candi-dates endorsed by their clerics. Shiites are believed to comprise about 60 percent of Iraq's 26 million people Sweden, the Foreign Ministry said Monday

that it was investigating reports that a Swedish citi zen of Iragi origin was kidnapped last month. ministry spokeswoman A confirmed that a Swedish citizen in his 60s had been

reported missing in Iraq and that Sweden's embassy in Amman, Jordan, was investigating the case

"He is a Swedish citizen and has been living in Iraq for a couple of years," Arvidson said. The missing man was identified by newspapers as

Minas Ibrahim al-Yousifi, the purported leader of the Christian Democratic Party in Iraq. The Foreign Ministry refused to identify the missing man. Meanwhile, an Italian journalist who was kid-

napped Friday will be released in the next few days, according to an Internet statement released in the name of the Iraqi militant group holding her on Mon-

'After the judicial committee of the Jihad Organi zation interrogated the Italian captive Guiliana Sgrena, it has been found that the Italian captive is not involved in spying for the infidels in Iraq," the group said in a statement posted on a Web site that frequently carries messages from Islamic militants.

On Sunday, the U.S. command denied a report by

an Iraqi police captain that 22 Iraqi security troops and 14 insurgents were killed Sunday night when rebels tried to storm a police station in a village south of Baghdad.

In a telephone interview with The Associated Press on Sunday, Capt. Muthana Khalid Ali of the Babil provincial police command had said the attack occurred in Al-Bu Mustafa village, in the Mahawil district, about 50 miles south of Baghdad.However U.S. command spokeswoman Capt. Patricia Brewer said no attack occurred, citing provincial authorities. Capt. Ali later said he had misread the initial re-

### Army forgives debts of wounded soldiers

129 mistakenly charged expenses

The Associated Press WASHINGTON - The Army

has identified 129 wounded sol who mistakenly received bills for expenses upon returning home from wars - in some cases instead of final paychecks - and it has forgiven their debts

After learning of the first such cases, Army Gen. Richard A. Cody said, an audit team determined that other wounded soldiers "experienced pay issues" and the Army has made changes it hopes will prevent other instances

"We are dedicated to the well being of our soldiers and strive to provide the absolute best for America's sons and daughters. Cody, the Army's vice chief of staff, said in a letter sent late Friday to Sen. Hillary Rodham Clin-

The Democrat from New York intervened in the case of Spc. Robert Loria, who lost his arm in Iraq. In December, as Loria was about to be discharged from the officials told

27-year-old soldier from Middletown, N.Y., that he owed nearly \$1 800 in expenses

Loria, who was wounded last February, had expected to get a check for nearly \$4.500

Clinton and other members of the New York delegation claimed that the Army's estimate of ex-penses owed was too large and ased in part on paperwork errors and bureaucratic complications. The Army ultimately for-

gave Loria's debt

But after Clinton's office received other similar complaints she sent a letter to the Army on Jan. 19 asking what procedures were in place to avoid similar cases. She said the complaints she had heard "suggest serious systemic problems.

In his response, Cody said Army medical and financial officials now meet individually with wounded soldiers to ensure they are aware of any entitlements they are owed. And, he said, the Army has established financial support teams at hospitals for wounded soldiers to swiftly take care of any such problems.

### Voting problems emerge

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD - Some polling stations were shuttered.

Others ran out of ballots. A provincial governor's name was left off the list of candidates. And some minorities complain it is all a plot to silence them.

One week after Iraq's historic election, allegations of confusion. mismanagement or worse are surfacing, complicating the vote count and perhaps providing ammunition for politicians to question the entire process if they do not fare well in the final tally.

It is too early to tell if the criticism can undermine the legitimacy of the incoming National Assembly. But in some local races, fears are already strong that flawed elections will give rise to provincial councils with skewed demographic representation. The most serious allegations

are concentrated in violence plagued areas or those with mixed religious and ethnic groups. Failure to reconcile discord over the Jan. 30 vote could worsen local tensions.

Iraq's electoral commission says it has received more than 100 complaints of irregularities. It has formed an independent team of three lawyers to investigate, though election officials have sought to downplay the scope and seriousness of the problems

"There are political parties that have contested the legitimacy of the election process even before the voting started," election official Adel al-Lami said. "It's because they know they won't get many votes.

### U.S. deaths in Iraq

As of Sunday, at least 1,448 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,105 died as a result of hostile action, the De-fense Department said. The figures include four military civil-

The AP count is six higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Friday

The British military has re ported 86 deaths; Italy, 20; Poland, 16; Ukraine, 16; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia. Thailand and the Neth

two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Rush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,310 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 996 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers

The latest deaths reported by the military:

A soldier was killed Sunday in a roadside bombing north of Baghdad. The latest identifications re-

ported by the military:

■ No identifications reported.

# McCartney not a Super hit with GIs in Iraq

BY TERRY BOYD Stars and Stripes

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WILSON, Iraq – Spc. Jones, take a letter.

To: The National Football League From: Young American sol-

diers in the desert
Re: The Super Bowl XXXIX
halftime show
Take all that Super Bowl ad

money and buy a clue.
"Where is Britney Spears?"

### Troops want Britney, beer, wings and beer

asks Pfc. Joshua Payton, a 21-year-old 1st Infantry Division soldier from Ironton, Ohio, watching the halftime show at Forward Operating Base Wilson's dining

facility.

"That was whack," says Staff
Sgt. Jamie Riley, Headquarters
and Headquarters Troop, 1st
Squadron, 4th U.S. Cavalry Regiment, as the last notes of "Live

and Let Die" fade from the huge Red Bull and alcohol-free beer,

"This is where you make a beer run," Payton counters. "Volunteer to make a beer run," replies Riley. "I'd rather see the AFN ads!"

It's hard enough getting up in the middle of the night, Iraq time, to watch football. Even the Super Bowl. So, when all they have is Red Bull and alcohol-free beer, soldiers need somebody besides Paul McCartney to party, especially for a low-scoring, defensive

game. At 7:32 into the third-quarter, Fox finally shows a close-up of a cheerleader, drawing a hoot from

the crowd.

"That's the best highlight of the whole game!" yells Staff Sgt. Dou-

glas Darden, a 33-year-old 1st ID soldier from Fayetteville, Texas.

soldier from Fayetteville, Texas.

The refrain here at this small base outside Tikrit is, next year

will be better.

Less Paul McCartney, more
Britney Spears, says Payton.

More beer, chicken wings,
women, and, most importantly,
sleep back in the real world instead of missions, mud and microwave popcorn fished out of care
packages in a corner of the dining
facility.

Yes, football is sacred, Payton says: "You're not an American if you don't watch the Super Bowl." But, he adds, Wilson is "a working FOB," where missions go out around the clock. And his duty day begins at 0800, Super Bowl Monday or not.

Strolling into the DFAC at 2:45 a.m., Riley shouts to the small, sleepy crowd, "Yeah, we gotta pa-

jama party this morning."

With many soldiers scheduled for dawn missions, "We're going to be hurting tomorrow. Or today, I should say."

Only about 35 soldiers out of more than 200 here got up before the chickens and made it to the dining facility for the game, especially with 1st ID troops preparing to return home to Schweinfurt, Germany, via Kuwait. Many of the rest watched it in their barracks.

Especially Philadelphia Eagles fans. It's the sound of one man clapping when the Eagles get on the board first with a touchdown at 9:35 to go in the first quarter.

"Donovan McNabb is the best player in the league," says Spc. Ray Simmons, 21, 1-4 Cay, who happens to share the same hometown with McNabb — Chicago. Simmons sticks it out to the bit-

ter end as the Eagles lose 24–21 to the Patriots.

Just how soldiers view the

game goes far beyond winning and losing to whether they're coming or going. Simmons and his 1st ID comrades are on their way home.

Representing the newly arrived National Guardsmen are the Boston contingent sitting right in front of the TV. The game was the same as last year — Pats win — when he was back home in Boston "minus the beer and women," says Spc. Ryan McLane, 23.

These guys are hard-core fans, and McLane and Staff Sgt. Fred Vestal, 42, with the 42nd Infantry Division — attached to the 1st Squadron, 278th Regimental Combat Team out of Tennessee — are sporting Patriots headgear.

Homies Sgt. James Gallagher, 28, and Spc. Jose Perez, 24, round out the Boston foursome.

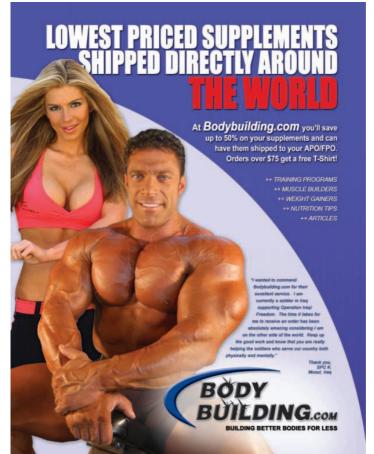
It's a "fantastic" game, McLane says. The most fun since the ReSox came back from three games down in October to beat the New York Yankees in the American League Championship Series, Vestal says. The Red Sox would go on to win their first World Series in 86 years.

Ah, except now, it dawns on them they have 10 months left in Iraq, not to mention a year till the next Super Bowl.

"That was," McLane says soberly as he watches Patriots players celebrating on the field, "all we had to look forward to."

Then his face brightens — the BoSox's first game is only six weeks away.

boydt@mail.estripes.osd.mi



# 1st ID unit pounds pavement as Iraq mission nears end

Stare and Strings

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WILSON, Iraq n a relatively large force of 14 soldiers, a joint 1st Infantry Division/Iragi army natrol flows through town with the relentlessness of Jehovah's Witnesses working a virgin neighborhood

House by house, block by block neighborhood by neighborhood, they cover mile after mile of Ad-Dawr, a Sunni Triangle town of

12,000 people. Just when residents are sure the patrols have passed, there's a knock at the door. Soldiers seem to be everywhere after Bradley fighting vehicles drop scouts from Troop C, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment for a sunset rendezvous with Iraqi counterparts

Seven hours later, they've searched dozens of houses

"Boy," says Sgt. Daniel Veach at about 10 p.m., "the night really flies by when you're busy."

For Veach and his scouts. Thursday night is one of their last after 12 months, hundreds of missions, big victories and bad days including three attacks in the past week

But instead of letting the clock run, they're playing like they're behind even as 3rd Infantry Division and 42nd Infantry Division soldiers arrive to replace the 1st ID.

"A lot of guys sit on the ball," says Spc. Justin Patterson. "But we don't want these new guys to be overwhelmed.'

"We want a really good battle handover," Veach says. "We don't want everything we worked for to turn to [expletive.]

"Before elections, we were re-acting [to attacks]," Sgt. Michael Robin says. "Now, we're making them react to us - keeping them guessing

Not so long ago, Ad-Dawr was ignored because it was quiet. 1st ID officers say. But when an October offensive drove the insurgents out of Samarra, they regrouped in Ad-Dawr

A night engaging the enemy is atypical for scouts, who are more likely to pull surveillance in vulnerable Iraqi army positions or search for insurgents firing rock-

In Ad-Dawr, they've become dismounted infantry.

A night on the town offers the chance for what soldiers term "movement to contact," which means luring the enemy to an unfair fight

"You always want contact on your terms, but the bottom line is, the enemy is reluctant to pop RPGs [rocket-propelled grenades] at tanks," says 1st Lt. Joey Comley. "They will fire on dismounts. They don't realize there are Brads or tanks in overwatch positions

ed the scouts that despite their best efforts, this is still their town

On Tuesday, a grenade went off a few feet from Spc. Javier Aguilar, spraying him with shrapnel. A few days before that, a makeshift bomb knocked out Staff Sgt. Reginald Graham, a Bradley commander, as he ferried a squad of scouts to Ad-Dawr.

Both soldiers recovered quick-On Thursday, Aguilar was back but subdued

Doing this night after night takes fortitude: Insurgents always have the initiative, setting bombs, or shooting, then disappearing into allevs.

Thursday night is — all things considered — a pretty good night in a bad place. Still, the new guys are inheriting an angry populace loyal to their deposed benefactor, Saddam Hussein.

"That tells you all you need to know about the city." Patterson

"People down here really, really despise us," Veach says early in the evening. Ad-Dawr is home to Izzat Ibrahim Al-Douri, Saddam's former vice president of the Revolutionary Council and current insurgent leader. Al-Douri's mansion in a neighborhood of mega houses remains unfinished as if he might return any minute

But people here are no longer Iraq's elite, Veach says: "Now they're just ordinary Iraqis, and they hate us for that. That's what we're dealing with here.

Of course, nothing in Iraq is quite that simple. There are seven tribes in the area, says Sgt. 1st Jacob Stockdill, Every neighborhood has a different feel

When soldiers knock they're usually greeted with reserved politeness. In one northside neighborhood, an older, distinguished couple seems pleased to host the soldiers, even if the soldiers say their family is suspect.

"Cola? Chai? Coffee?" the wife asks Veach and his soldiers. The husband beams as he holds a little

Elsewhere, men and women, young and old, walk stiffly past the patrol. Are searches intrusive? Yes, say soldiers. But they say Ad-Dawr only got worse during the months they left it alone. Sol-diers try not to intimidate Iraqis, though that's difficult when entering houses wearing battle rattle, Kevlar and carrying weapons, Robin says.

"We're not going to win hearts and minds," Stockdill says. "Most people are already on one side or the other

Still, he says, soldiers have to persuade Iraqis "we're not bad guys. I try to talk as a parent, not a soldier. Try to talk as a person" who understands the fear of sending children to a school targeted by bombers.



TERRY BOYD/Stars and String

American and Iraqi soldiers wait for Iraqi forces to pick up three men suspected of building improvised ombs in Ad-Dawr, Irag.

After a dry spell, Veach and company hit a smallish-but-neat house full of evidence that someone's been busy, perhaps making roadside hombs

Curious electrical devices are everywhere, including a detonator cap. There are long rods that look like sparklers, used to ignite Russian rockets. Everything can be explained away, the three men inside say, until soldiers find a muiahedeen recruitment DVD

American soldiers zip-strip the men and Iraqi soldiers take them

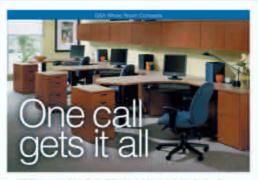
At least to a few, the Americans are the best hope for normalcy. On Tuesday, a neighborhood man tipped soldiers, who seized three

suspects in the grenade attack. "He said he was tired of the gunfire, tired of the violence," Veach said. "I couldn't believe it. It's usually, 'Mister, I hear nothing.'

So the 1st ID soldiers keep the pressure on Ad-Dawr as time runs out. They'll keep pushing until the last patrol, but that last patrol is on their minds.

After the soldiers are back into the personnel carriers, and the Bradleys are reaching cruising speed, Veach raises his hand and flashes four fingers at his comrades.

Four more missions. E-mail Terry Boyd at: boydt@mail.estripes.osd.mil



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### IN THE WORLD

# Rice pushes U.S. role in peace plan

### Israel, Palestinians say they'll declare cease-fire

BY ANNE GEARAN The Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank -U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on Monday promised active U.S. involvement in Mideast peace-making, saying Washington would dispatch a high-level "security coordinator" to the region and send more than \$40 million in immediate aid to the Pales-

Rice also said Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon have accepted invitations for seperate meetings with President Bush at the White House in the spring.

Israeli and Palestinian officials said Monday that the two sides will declare a formal end to more than four years of fighting at Tuesday's Mideast summit in the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-

She added what she has heard from both sides bodes well for their summit on Tuesday

"The U.S. will do its part," she said at a joint news conference with Abbas in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

Rice said Lt. Gen. William E. Ward, deputy commanding general for U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army, has been chosen for the job of security coordinator.

She said Ward, who was also posted in Germany, Somalia and Egypt, would visit the Middle East in coming weeks and report directly to her.

Ward will monitor compliance with security requirements, including reform of the Palestinian security forces, Rice said. She



U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, left, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas stand next to a photo of the late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in the presidential headquarters in the West Bank town of Ramallah on Monday.

stressed that the United States prefers that Israel and the Palestinians negotiate with each other

Israel in the past has balked at international monitors but a ton Sharon aide said Ward would be welcome. "This is someone who will be like a referee, if there is a need ... on to mediate and prevent a crisis," said the aide, Raanan "The American involve-Gissin. ment will increase as progress is

Bush said that the background for peace talks has improved with Abbas' election.

"Abbas comes to the table with a mandate from a lot of Palestinians." Bush told reporters at the end of a Cabinet meeting, "He has been through an election. He

was been endorsed by the Pales-tinian people." Abbas was elected the president of the Palestinian Authority on Jan. 9, succeeding the late Yasser Arafat.

Bush said he was impressed by Abbas' commitment to fighting terror, and by Israel's assistance in the Palestinian elections

During her visit to Ramallah, Rice praised Abbas, saying he is following through on his mandate to restore calm in the Palestinian areas and that he has helped jump-start peace efforts with Isra-

Her meeting with Abbas ended years of strained relations be-tween the United States and the Palestinians under the leadership of Yasser Arafat, shunned by Washington as a leader tainted by

CommunityBank

### Ward's Army background

Lt. Gen. William E. "Kip" Ward is deputy commanding general for U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army.

1971 Refore taking the US AREUR position — the second Germany tour of his career Ward was headquartered in Sa-

Bosnia, as commander of the Stabilization Force for Operation Joint Forge. Ward's

Middle East experience in cludes his

tour as chief of the Office of Military Cooperation in the American Embassy in Egypt. He participated in Opera-

tion Restore Hope in Mogadishu, Somalia, as commander of the 2nd Brigade of the 10th Mountain Division (Light) from Fort Drum, N.Y.; and his command of the 25th Infantry (Light) and U.S. Army, Ha waii at Schofield Barracks

Ward has served two tours on the Army Chief of Staff and two tours on the Joint Chiefs of

- Stars and Strines

The Palestinians, in turn, had complained that Bush, at least in his first term, favored Israel and was not active enough in trying to resolve the Mideast conflic

### century hermitage in the Maestrazgo mountain district near Ward was commissioned in

this village in eastern Spain. The dead include 11 men and seven women, most of them at least 30 years old. They slept to-

18 die at Spanish hostel TODOLELLA, Spain - The host of the birthday party that ended in tragedy survived by sleeping in another room, while 18 guests died of apparent carbon

monoxide poisoning from a malfunctioning gas heater, authorities said Monday.

Autopsies were carried out overnight following the discovery

of the bodies Sunday afternoon at

a hostel converted from a 15th

gether in an open room warmed by a butane gas heater.

### Raid ends standoff

BERN, Switzerland - Swiss special forces stormed the Span-ish consulate Monday to end a hostage standoff nearly seven hours after three masked assailants broke into the building, but the suspected robbers managed to elude police, authorities said. The three, believed to be

armed with knives and a handgun, had seized the consulate in the Swiss capital shortly before 8 a.m., taking three people hostage, authorities said. One captive managed to escape and the two others were let go, they said.

A special police unit went into the consulate around 2:30 p.m. but were unable to find the suspects, said Juerg Mosimann, a spokesman for Bern state police. No shots were fired he said

### Pubs can expand hours

LONDON - Pubs. clubs and other drinking venues in England and Wales can apply to stay open 24 hours a day under new laws that come into effect Monday

Currently, many British drinkers imbibe as much as they can as quickly as they can before pubs close at 11 p.m. Then heavy drinkers all stumble into the streets at the same time, often leading to fights and other drunken misbehavior. The government says the new laws will help curb the problem because people will drink in a more relaxed manner and leave

at different times.
Although establishments can apply for the extended licenses starting Monday, the new hours won't come into effect in England and Wales until November, Scotland is conducting its own review of licensing laws.

Cuba bans smoking

### access to some Islamic Web sites

The Associated Press

blocking Islamic Web sites that incite violence as part of its all-out war on terror following recent clashes with fundamentalists who allegedly planned to attack Americans and the country's se-curity forces, a senior official said Monday.

Kuwait began to block the sites Sunday. Three Kuwaiti sites are now inaccessible, and technicians are working with security offi-cials and Internet providers to crack down on non-Kuwaiti sites, said Hamed Khaja, undersecretary of the Communications Minis-

try. He declined to name any of the

"A few weeks ago, we started to make a list of these sites, and yes-terday we began to actually block them," Khaja said.

# Kuwait blocks

KUWAIT CITY - Kuwait is

HAVANA - Cuba on Monday hegan an island wide han on smok ing in public places such as stores, theaters and office buildings.

to know, or care, and continued to light up their black tobacco cigarettes in enclosed areas now designated as nonsmoking. News of the ban was first an-

nounced last month, when it was published in Cuba's National Gazette by the Commerce Ministry. The resolution said the move

But some Cubans didn't seem

was "taking into account the damage to human health caused by the consumption of cigarettes and cigars, with the objective of contributing to a change in the attitudes of our population.

From The Associated Press



### IN THE STATES

# **Bush sends Congress \$2.57T spending plan**

BY MARTIN CRUTSINGER The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - President Bush sent Congress a \$2.57 trillion budget plan Monday that would boost spending on the military and homeland security but seeks spending cuts across a wide swath of other government programs. Bush's budget would reduce subsidies paid to farmers, cut health payments for poor people and veterans and trim spending on the environment and education.

"It is a budget that sets priorities," Bush said after a meeting with his Cabinet. "It's a budget that reduces and eliminates redundancy. It's a budget that's a lean bud-

Bush acknowledged that it would be difficult to eliminate popular programs but he said programs must prove their worth "I look forward to explaining to the American people why we made some of the requests that we made in our budget," the president told reporters.

The budget - the most austere of Bush's presidency - would eliminate or vastly scale back 150 government programs. It will spark months of contentious debate in Congress, where lawmakers will fight to protect their favored programs.

House Democratic Leader Rep. Nancy Pelosi of California called Bush's budget "a hoax on the American people. The two issues that dominated the president's State

of the Union address - Iraq and Social Security — are nowhere to be found in this budget."

Bush's budget does not reflect the costs for his No. 1 domestic priority, overhauling Social Security by allowing younger work ers to set up private investment accounts Aides said since the plan is still being developed, accurate cost estimates could not be

The spending document projects that the deficit will hit a record \$427 billion this year, the third straight year that the red ink in dollar terms has set a record. Bush projects that the deficit will fall to \$390 billion in 2006 and gradually decline to \$233 billion in 2009 and \$207 billion in 2010.

Bush's 2006 spending plan, for the budget year that begins next Oct. 1, counts on a healthy economy to boost revenues by 6.1 percent to \$2.18 trillion. Spending, meanwhile, would grow by 3.5 percent to \$2.57

Democrats complained that Bush was resorting to draconian cuts that would hurt the needy in order to protect his first term tax cuts that primarily benefited the wealthy.

'This budget is part of the Republican plan to cut Social Security benefits while handing out lavish tax breaks for multimil-lionaires," said Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev. "Its cuts in veterans programs, health care and education re-flect the wrong priorities and its huge deficits are fiscally irresponsible.

### U.S. gasoline prices predicted to break records this year

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Gasoline prices rose more than 7 percent in January, which typically is one of the slowest driving months of the year. That's leading experts to predict pump prices may surge past last year's record highs when highway travel picks up late in the spring.

Government figures show that the average price of regular unleaded has risen in each of the last four weeks, jumping from \$1.78 at the start of the year to \$1.91 a gallon in the week ended Jan. 31. That's more than 30 cents a gallon higher than a year earli-

Prices are highest on the West Coast, averaging \$1.99 a gallon and lowest in the Rocky Mountain region, averaging \$1.83 a gal-

Last year, the average price peaked above \$2 a gallon in May, just before Memorial Day, which is the unofficial start of the summer driving season. To be just a dime short of that level in early February is not good news for mo torists, analysts said.

Carl Larry, head of energy futures at Barclays Capital in New York, said he expects retail gasoline prices to rise above last vear's peak due to rising demand for fuel and the higher price of

MarketWatch

NEW YORK - If you're buy-

ing a home, it's important to

know the ins and outs of home in-

It's an analysis of the home's

structural features and systems,

such as water, gas and electric.

The purpose is to find any struc-

tural defects, broken or obsolete

systems, damage or wear and

tear — before you assume own-ership of the house or posses-

In fact, nearly every real es-

tate agent will recommend that

a home inspection be conducted

as part of your purchase con-

tract, says the American Society

sion of the apartment.

spection.

crude oil, from which gasoline is refined

"We're starting to see the economy come back, so demand can only go higher from where it's at," Larry said.

Over the past four weeks, nationwide demand for gasoline is up more than 1 percent at 8.8 million barrels, according to the latest U.S. government data

Larry said gasoline prices would be propelled higher this spring by fears about the nation's growing dependence on imports and the possibility of sup-ply-chain snags as refiners temporarily shut down, or turn around operations in order to shift production from winter-grade fuel to

**Pents and Sensibility** 

Home inspection help

"All these things fall into place," he said.

Another indicator of the strength of the U.S. gasoline market: the nation's largest independent refiner, Valero Energy Corp. of San Antonio, has seen its stock nrice more than double in the past year.

Tom Kloza, director of Oil Price Information Service in Lakewood, N.J., said he antici-pates the price of gasoline to rocket higher in the next 90 days." Nationally, Kloza predicts average gasoline prices could sur-pass \$2.15 and even run as high as \$2.50. That said, he expects those highs to be short-lived.



A truck is gassed up Sunday in Dallas. Experts predict recordbreaking pump prices this year.

### **EXCHANGE RATES**

Military rates Bahrain (Dinar). British pound ... Canada (Dollar) Denmark (Krone) Egypt (Pound)..... Hong Kong (Dollar) Hungary (Forint) .... Iceland (Krona) ..... 

### PRECIOUS METALS

.\$413.90 \$6.63

### INTEREST RATES Prime rate ...... Discount rate ..... Federal funds market rate 3-month bill

of Home Inspectors.

In the new book, "1001 Tips for Buying and Selling a Home," author Mark Nash outlines what inspectors look for. Here are the keys for conducting a successful ne inspection: Hire an inspector who has a state license for home inspection and is a member of the

American Association of Home

Inspectors.

■ Understand that an inspector conducts a general survey he or she may be an expert in some areas, but not in all.

Money tip of the day

- If possible, ask to make the tour with the inspector. You can ask him or her any questions you have. The inspector can also point out key features such as the gas- and water-cutoff valves. Learn what the inspector
- will be examining. Typically, he or she will look at features including fireplaces, foundations, roofs, siding, gutters, porches, chimneys, windows, doors, hot water heaters, pools and interior and exterior walls. The inspector also will look at mechanical systems including the plumbing, heating and air conditioning and electricity.
- Use the tour to check for things that will fit your needs. For example, when the inspector examines the plumbing, make sure the water pressure is adequate. When he checks the electrical system, ask if the energy flow will be sufficient for your various appliances.

### CIA chief Goss making staff changes at the top

BY KATHERINE PFLEGER SHRADER The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Monday was Day One of a new era at the Central Intelligence Agency as director Porter Goss. on the job for four months, finally gets his leadership team in place

The time since Goss' swearing-in has proved rocky for an agency still reeling from its failure to warn of the Sept. 11, 2001. attacks and its flawed prewar intelligence on Iraq's weapons.

More than a dozen senior officials have left since Goss arrived The messy details of some internal battles have seeped into the

Critics have complained that Goss, a former Republican congressman who served as chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, politicized the agen-cy by hiring Republican aides.

Goss' allies say wholesale changes were essential after the intelligence failures of Sept. 11

"You couldn't expect anybody to have the same leadership in place and improve the operation of the agency," said Sen. Saxby Chambliss, a Georgia Republican who is a friend of Goss and a member of the Senate Intelligence

"While it's been very controversial Porter had to make some change of people, who were good people and individually they were nice people, but the job wasn't get-ting done," Chambliss said.

Among the new hires, Goss is making 30-year CIA veteran John Kringen the head of the Directorate of Intelligence, the agency's analysis division. That move on Monday means Goss will have in place all the division chiefs he has

Goss kept one holdover from the seven-year tenure of former CIA Director George Tenet — science and technology director Donald Kerr

Goss, a CIA operative in the 1960s, got a mandate from President Bush and the Congress to tackle tough intelligence changes

A counterterrorism official said Goss is collapsing layers of bureaucracy, so that the operatives in the field are closer to the decision-makers at CIA's headquar-

"Changing a risk-averse culture doesn't take a lot of money. It takes a change in senior manage-ment," said the official.



Above: Gladys Knight is seen in an MNBA commercial that was shown during the Super Bowl on Sunday. Right: Paul McCartney performs during halftime at Alltel Stadium on Sunday in Jacksonville, Fla.



# **Wacky ads steal Super Bowl show**

BY SETH SUTEL The Associated Press

NEW YORK - Sure Super Bowl ads have been wacky before. But Gladys Knight scoring in a rugby game? MC Hammer and a '72 Impala getting hurled over a backyard fence - to plug potato chips? There were plenty of curiosities in this year's crop of ads tailored for the game, the try goes all out to show off its most daring, creative work and make the most of the biggest television audience of the year.

What we didn't see was a re peat of last year's rampage of off-color humor. And no wardrobe malfunctions - unless you count a cheeky spot from new-comer GoDaddy.com, a vendor of Web site names, that poked fun at the hubbub over the halftime incident from last year with a fake hearing into broadcast decency. An elderly politician clutches for an oxygen mask after a buxom woman's top nearly falls down from a broken shoulder strap.

Some marketing pundits still say that \$2.4 million — that's \$80,000 a second — is too much to

### McCartney plays it safe at halftime performance

NEW YORK - The NFL wanted a safe halftime show after last year's Janet Jackson fiasco, and Paul McCartney delivered.

Paul McCartney delivered.
When McCartney stripped off his jacket midway through his Super Bowl halftime performance, all he revealed was a long-sleeved red
shirt. Nothing malfunctioned. And if he wore any
nipple jewelry, he mercifully kept it to himself.

It was sweet nostalgia for those stunned by Jackson's MTV-produced show, if a bit off-putting for the kids: Each of McCartney's four songs was more than 30 years old.

Surely you recall last year's climax to a body-shaking, crotch-grabbing festival: Justin Timberlake yanking part of Jackson's top off to reveal her bare breast to some 90 million viewers

McCartney's stage set - a giant cross of video boards on the stadium floor with the singer at the center - was visually arresting, although it made his opening song, "Drive My Car," look like one of the broadcast's dozens of auto commercials.

McCartney's theatrical James Bond theme "Live and Let Die" was a perfect backdrop for a stadium fireworks show. The lights, placards and video images also made "Hey Jude" a sight to see.

pay for a 30-second advertising spot. But with so few truly mass audiences left, the networks don't seem to have any problem selling out the full inventory of ads and charging ever-higher prices for

This year saw a slew of newcomers, including Volvo, with a clever spot featuring Richard Branson going into space in a

A sticker on the side boasts that

his other vehicle is a Volvo. This ad even comes with its own promotion, giving viewers a chance to sign up to win a trip into space on commercial space flights Branson is planning. Lincoln - which hadn't been in

the game for a decade - ran a funny ad toward the start of the Super Bowl in which a tough group of bikers is scared away from a roadside diner after see-ing a line of Lincoln trucks parked in front. The gang of Hell's Angels lookalikes is spared embarrassment when one of them sheepishly suggests that the salad bar up the road is better

Several of this year's ads were definitely puzzlers.

Gladys Knight appears as a

rugby player in a pitch for the credit card issuer MBNA Corp., and both MC Hammer and a '72 Impala come flying over a backyard fence in a spot for Lay's potato chips.

Pepsi, a perennial Super Bowl advertiser, referred to one of its own classic ads by showing Cindy Crawford ogling a plain-dressed but hunky guy walking along and sipping on a can of Diet Pepsi as the theme from "Saturday Night Fever" plays in the background.

### Study: Chubby cheeks due to sweet drinks

BY CARLA K. JOHNSON The Associated Press

CHICAGO - Sweet drinks whether Kool-Aid with sugar or all-natural apple juice - seem to raise the risk of pudgy preschoolers getting fatter, new research suggests.

That may come as a surprise to parents who pride themselves on seeking out fruit drinks with no added sugar

"Juice is definitely a part of this," said lead researcher Jean Welsh of the Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention While fruit juice does have vitamins, nutritionists say it's inferi-

or to fresh fruit. The new U.S. dietary guidelines, for example, urge consumers away from juice, suggesting

they eat whole fruit instead The bottom line, though, is that "children need very few calories in their day," Welsh said. "Sweet drinks are a source of

added sugar in the diet."

She said preschoolers were better off snacking on fruit or drinking water or milk. Welsh's research, published in

the February issue of Pediatrics. found that for 3- and 4-year-olds already on the heavy side, drinking something sweet once or twice a day doubled their risk of becoming seriously overweight a year later.

The sweet drinks seemed to have little effect, however, on children of normal weight. The American Academy of Pe-

diatrics recommends limiting preschoolers to 4 to 6 ounces of juice per day. Some parents and schools are paying attention. One Chicago Head Start pro-

gram banned juice last year as part of an anti-obesity effort after finding that one out of five of its students was obese.

Monica Dillion, community health nurse for the Howard Area Family Center, said the preschool also added more fruits and vegetables to meals and more exercise to the daily schedule. The Pediatrics study followed 10,904 Missouri children in a nutrition program for low-income families.

Sweet drinks are high in calories and low in fiber.







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### Risk to GIs demanded action

I write in response to retired Marine officer James Clark's Jan. 28 letter "Politics drives retired brass?" Clark raised questions about a letter signed by 12 retired military leaders, including myself, which appeared in Stars and Stripes on Jan. 25 "Gonzales not right fit for GIs")

To be clear, our letter, which voiced concern about the record of attorney general nominee Alberto Gonzales, was an excerpt of an open letter we wrote to the Senate Ju diciary Committee, asking senators to carefully examine Gonzales' record, in particular on the Geneva Conventions

Clark outlined some concerns about our motivation in writing a letter about Gonza les, to which I would like to respond. We believe it is our duty, as retired military leaders of the U.S. armed forces, to scruti nize the record of the attorney general nominee because of his central role in setting current policy on torture and the laws of war. In particular, we have been deeply concerned about Gonzales' recommenda-tion that the full Geneva Conventions should not be applied to the conflict in Afghanistan.

Our concern stems from our abiding desire to make sure American soldiers deployed around the globe do not face unnecessary harm or danger. Gonzales' advice

### Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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to reject Geneva protections for some U.S.

E-mail: letters@mail.estripes.osd.mil

detainees deprives our troops, if captured, of any claim to those protections just in the Afghanistan conflict, but in future conflicts. Gonzales' recommendation runs counter to the counsel of former Secretary of State Colin Powell and others

Raising this concern about troop safety in this and future wars — was our pri mary motivation in our decision to write a letter to the senators charged with reviewing Gonzales' record.

Rear Adm. John D. Hutson (retired) Dean, Franklin Pierce Law Cer Concord N H

### Army bonus policy unfair

This is in reference to bonuses offered in the Army, which I find to be unfair.

I re-enlisted in November for an additional three years of reserve time. By De-cember the bonus changed from the \$2,500 I received to \$5,000. In January it changed again to \$7,500.

I think this is ridiculous and unfair. We all deserve to receive the best bonus the Army can offer. I also saw my other soldiers re-enlist for indefinite contracts and not be entitled to receive any Army bonus. I think the Army needs to change its poli-

cy of only receiving one bonus for re-enlistment throughout your Army career. Many civilian jobs give their employees a bonus throughout their years of service. Why can't the Army offer this? This should include the soldiers with 16 years or more of service, who only need a few more years to complete their 20 years of service. It would be smart of the Army if it tried

to keep the soldiers who have more than 10 years of service because of their increased level of expertise and loyalty.

Staff Sgt. Samantha Uribe

Kuwait

### Bush determined to ignore doubters

o, the insurgency isn't over. No, U.S. troops can't come home yet No, one election does not a democracy make. No, paradise has not dawned in Mesopotamia. Every caveat offered by the cautious is true. Yet even days later, all I can say is ... wow! For those of us who supported President

Bush's decision to liberate Iraq — and who. unlike some fair-weather friends, never wa vered in our conviction that it was the right thing to do - there hasn't been a lot of good news to celebrate since the capture of Saddam Hussein. And that was more than a year ago

So you will forgive me if I savor [last] Monday's headlines: "Iraqi Turnout Trumps Violence"; "Security Effort Holds Insurgents Mostly at Bay"; "President Hails Election as a Success and a Signal." Even more eloquent were the ubiquitous pictures of Iraqis giving terrorists the finger - literally — as they exhibited ink-stained index fingers showing they had voted

I am not a weeper, but as I watched television coverage of the voting I found myself on the verge of tears. Tears of relief and jubilation and astonishment. The spectacle of millions of Iraqis braving bombs and bullets to cast ballots was awe-inspiring and humbling. It made me feel slightly ashamed about my own attitude toward voting. I, like many other citizens of well-established democracies, tend to view it as a chore, like

taking out the garbage. Iraqis do not have the luxury of taking democracy for granted. They were dying to vote — and some, in fact, died in the act. But others stepped up into the voting booth anyway

It was almost enough to make a hardened cynic think that indeed "the call of freedom comes to every mind and every soul." words are from President Bush's much-mocked inaugural address, which struck even some of the president's supporters as too preachy and too utopian. Yet Bush doesn't simply talk big. He delivers, notwithstanding the nonstop naysaying of most of the nation's allies and our own foreign policy establishment.

Who, four years ago, would have dreamed that Afghans and Iraqis by the millions would take part in free and fair elec-tions? That it has happened is primarily because of the men and women of those coun-tries who have made clear their desire to cast off despotism, and because of the men and women of the coalition armed forces who have paid a heavy price to defeat terror-ists and tyrants. But it's also a tribute to Bush, who has never wavered from his belief that the forces of civilization will pre-

The president's critics have counseled him to scale back his ambitious goals, to postpone elections, to make a deal with the enemies of freedom. They have sneered at his "mindless determination" and claimed that he had embroiled the United States in a "quagmire" and a "catastrophic failure"

as Ted Kennedy did just three days before the Iraq election. Above all, they have scoffed at his unshakable conviction that Afghans and Arabs could live as freely as Io wans or Italians

His vision, admittedly, is a long way from being fully realized, but it has taken a giant step closer to reality with the successful elections in Iraq and Afghanistan.

To a lesser degree, the recent Palestinian Authority election also redounds to his cred it. In 2002, Bush broke with foreign policy orthodoxy by announcing he would not nego tiate with the Palestinians until they had taken firm steps toward democracy. All the experts predicted disaster. What we got in-stead was a pledge from the Israeli prime minister to pull out of the Gaza Strip and a pledge from the new Palestinian president to crack down on terrorism.

Much can still go wrong in the broader Middle East. Indeed, much has gone wrong already. There is no doubt that Bush has made plenty of mistakes. The mistake he has not made, however, is

the most important of all: He has not lost his

nerve History shows that a mighty nation can recover from wartime miscalculations. It can bounce back from defeats at Bull Run or Bataan, Chancellorsville or the Choisin Res ervoir, as long as it possesses a leader who never acknowledges that he is beaten.

In George W. Bush we have such a man. Max Boot is Olin Senior Fellow in National Security Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations

in New York. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

### Doonesbury







### OPINION

# If Dean gets nod, it's all over but the shouting

### BY JONATHAN CHAIT

few weeks ago, when former Ver-mont Gov. Howard Dean declared his intention to run for chairman of the Democratic National Com mittee, news reports had the general tone of "Get this, that crazy scream guy is back and he wants to run the party." Now, [less than] a week before the vote, his victory is a fait accompli. How did this happen? Are Democrats suicidally crazy?

Wait. That's too easy. Let me rephrase the question. Why are Democrats suicidally

The conventional rap against Dean as DNC chairman is essentially the same as the conventional rap against him as presidential candidate a year ago. Namely, he reinforces all the party's weaknesses. Democrats need to appeal to culturally traditional voters in the Midwest and border states who worry about the party's commitment to national security. Dean, with his intense secularism, arrogant style, throngs of high-profile counterculture supporters and association with the peace movement, is the precise opposite of the image Democrats want to send out

The conventional rap is completely right. But, in a way. Dean is even less suited to run the DNC than he is to run for president.

The DNC chairman has two main jobs First, he transmits the party's message - an important role when the party lacks a president and majority leaders in Congress. This job requires one to master the dismal art of "message discipline," boiling down the par-ty's ideas into a few simple phrases and repeating them over and over until they have sunk into the public consciousness

It's a role for which Dean is particularly ill-suited. During his campaign, remember, he fashioned himself a straight talker, delighting reporters by repeatedly wandering "off message." On the plus side, he won friends in the media by appearing honest and human. On the negative side, he did himself enormous damage, when, for example, he suggested that he wouldn't prejudge Osama bin Laden until he had been convicted in a court of law.

For presidential candidates, the negatives of "straight talk" usually outweigh the positives. Paul Maslin, Dean's former pollster, wrote in the Atlantic Monthly after the campaign fell apart: "Our candidate's erratic judgment, loose tongue, and overall stubbornness wore our spirits down." But at least for a presidential campaign there are some positives in going off message. In a job like party chairman, a loose cannon is nothing but downside.

The second major task of the DNC chairman is to run the party organization. And here, if this is at all possible, Dean looks even worse. Garance Franke-Ruta, who wrote sympathetic Dean pieces in the American Prospect during the campaign, spoke with several former Dean staffers. One called the candidate "a horrible manager" and added, "I wouldn't trust him to run a company." Another called his management style "just a disaster."

Dean, remember, raised about \$50 million by positioning himself as the most anti-Bush candidate, but blew through it so fast that he was nearly broke by January. This represents the sort of financial acumen you associate with deluded, flash-in-the-pan celebrities — cue the narrator for VH1's "Behind the Music": "But the good times and lavish spending couldn't last for M.C. Hammer" not with chairmen of major political parties.

So how did Dean manage to trounce all



SCREAM, 2005 ...

comers for this position? Dean's supporters see his triumph as the victory of the masses over a tiny Democratic elite desperately trying to cling to power. As one left-liberal blogger gloated: "The fact that Howard Dean will most likely be heading up the Democratic Party is our victory. It is the voice of the grass roots lifted up into the halls of power once owned by the 'aristocracy of consult-That actually has it backward. A recent Wall Street Journal poll found that only 27 percent of Democrats approve of Dean.

In the latest issue of the New Republic, Ryan Lizza described how Dean had prevailed in a process of third-rate intrigue. The choosing of the DNC chairman has been dominated by state parties, whose concerns revolve around expanding perks, including a demand for a \$200,000 handout for each state party from the national party. Nobody seemed to pay much attention to the good of the party as a whole. Meanwhile, Dean touched those leaders' ideological erogenous zones, promising to "feed our core con-stituencies" and not be "Republican-lite."

As the last election showed, the core constituencies are plenty well fed. There just aren't enough of them to win the White

Jonathan Chait is a senior editor at The New Republic.
This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

### PBS won't air 'Buster,' but it responds to fear factor lations at PRS said "We wanted to make

### BY DEBRA CHASNOFF

his month I experienced déià vu. PBS — the Public Broadcasting Service - decided not to distribute an episode of its cartoon "Postcards From Buster" in which Buster the animated bunny meets two children whose parents are lesbians. The same day the secretary of education sent PBS a letter demanding that the network not air this show. "Many parents would not want their young children exposed to the lifestyles portrayed in the episode," she wrote.

She also asked PBS to return federal funds used to make the episode.

I flashed back to 1999, when a documentary I directed, "It's Elementary - Talking About Gay Issues in School," was offered for broadcast through American Public Television. The film shows how and why schools are finding age-appropriate ways to address gay and lesbian issues in education — con-fronting anti-gay name-calling, helping students to discuss gay-related topics as part of lessons on current events and reading books that have characters with gay parents

When "It's Elementary" was scheduled to air on public television, PBS received more letters of protest than for any other program in its history. And what was PBS's response Said Robert Conrad, then president of the network: "This sounds to me like a program that helps parents do a better job of parenting, and that is the kind of thing that public broadcasting has a right to do. "It's Elementary" went on to air on more

than 300 public television stations around the country. No such courage this month.

Explaining why the network yanked the show. Lea Sloan, vice president of media resure that parents had an opportunity to introduce this subject to their children in their own time

What world are Education Secretary Margaret Spellings and the executives at PBS living in? It seems they think that there is one world where all the families and children live and another, separate one where all those gay people live. Apparently it's up to (straight) parents to decide when to open the borders and let their children have a controlled peek at the other side

At this point in American history, that posion is not only ridiculous, it's insulting and highly irresponsible. Millions of children have a parent, uncle, aunt, cousin, sibling or grandnarent who is gay. Thousands of dedicated teachers, school administrators and coaches are gays or lesbians. What kind of message are we sending to our youth when we say that their loved ones and trusted mentors aren't safe for children to meet on TV?

Even if we keep Buster the bunny from visiting children whose parents are gay, we can't put the rabbit back in the hat. Gay people and gav issues are part of everyone's world now. Our only choice is whether we give kids the skills and opportunities to treat everyone respectfully, or whether we try to perpetuate a false silence around the real lives of millions of Americans.

There seems to be a fear that if we allow depictions of families on public TV that don't seem "typical" then somehow we are encouraging children to create those kinds of families instead of the "real" or "legitimate" kind. In fact, when we give young people the opportunity to see that there are all types of family structures, we are helping to lay the foundation for them to understand and respect differences of all kinds, a skill that has never been more needed.

PBS says it seeks to use "the power of noncommercial television ... to enrich the lives of all Americans through quality programs and education services that inform, inspire and delight." All Americans means all kids, regardless of which combination of adults comes together to love and nurture them. Debra Chasnoff is a filmmaker and winner of a 1991

Debra Chasnoff is a filmmaker and winner of a 199. Academy Award for best documentary short subject. She is director of the Respect for All Project, which works to advance understanding of diversity among young people. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

### Mallard Fillmore

By BRUCE TINSLEY





# **Accent on ski bliss**

### Roccaraso, Italy, earns its popularity

BY SANDRA JONTZ

Stars and Stripes

avy Petty Officer 2nd Class Kathleen Ellison can spell "happiness' with 18 letters. Swoosh, swoosh, swoosh.

That's the sound her skies make swooshing down the mountainside at the Roccaraso, Italy, ski resort, about a three-hour bus ride from the Carney Park recreational outlet outside of Naples.

"These are good slopes. Great slopes," said Ellison, a master at arms who has been skiing since she was about 7 years old. "The worst thing is the amount of people coming down at one time."

Popularity, apparently, has its downside. Every Startoq during the region's ski season, weather permitting, the Navy Outdoor Recreation sponsors trips to Roccaraso for U.S. military and NATO persons and their families, generally taking bedien the startogram of the

For a \$10 bus ride, recreation officials accompany winter-weather enthusiasts—skiers, snowboarders and just about anyone looking for a day of play in the white stuff. The trips run from 6 a.m. to about 7 p.m.

The base of the resort, in the province of L'Aquli in the Abruzzo region of southeast Italy, sits at an altitude of 4,068 feet. It has 24 lifts, including a gondola that offers a spectacular view. Slopes boast a vertical drop of around 3,000 feet, with the highest run topping out at 7,021 feet.

Lessons are available, and usually there are a few instructors who speak English. But on one recent trip, none was present, leaving skiers to either attempt the slopes on their own, hit the café or rely on experienced tour members for pointers.

In the past, however, some Americans have taken the group lessons for 20 euros each or the private lessons for 30 euros, and simply watched and mimicked Italian-speaking instructors' directions, grasping the basics of skiing and snowboarding with no problem, said Naval Outdoor Rec chaper one Sarah Uttech.

One of those was Ursula Tyson, 29, who, without difficulty, snagged and grasped her private snowboarding lessons from a non-English-speaking instructor.

"It wasn't difficult at all," said the first grade teacher at Naples Elementary School. "You watch and repeat. And he spoke enough English to teach what he needed to teach. You know, he could say 'turn' and 'stop.'

"If it wasn't for the lesson, I'd never be able to do it," said Tyson, who unexpectedly ended most downhill runs on her feet, instead of sitting, she added, laughing.

For some of the Italian skiers, a day on the slopes seemed a veritable fashion show of the latest in skiwear. And some took to the mountain to sunbathe, taming just their faces, of course, while lounging on comfy lawn chairs rented for the day for 3 euros.

Bar bunnies can also relax at a café shop that serves espresso, cappuccinos, alcoholic drinks, sandwiches, pizza — including affresco



Roccaraso, Italy, offers 24 lifts, including a gondola affording a spectacular view.



Petty Officer 2nd Class Kathleen Ellison, left, treats Petty Officer 2nd Class Kim Moselle to a cafe latte at the bar at the Roccaraso ski resort.



Ursula Tyson makes it down the hill standing after learning how



skiing as a "horrible experience." She and her pal-instructor, Petty Officer 3rd Class Donna Oved, were separated and

and Class Donna Oved, were separated and Williams faced making it down the mountain on her own.

"I fell down and it took me 20 minutes to

"I fell down and it took me 20 minutes to get back up," said the exasperated 22-yearold information technologist. "Finally, I was just happy to fall. I was just happy to stop." Will there be a next time?

"Heck yeah, I'm coming back," Williams said. "I'm not a quitter."

E-mail Sandra Jontz at: jontzs@mail.estripes.osd.mil



Moselle, left, gets pointers from Ellison.



### On the QT



From Gricignano, take autostrada A1 north toward Rome and get off at the Caianello exit. A sign justbefore the exit points toward Roccaraso; follow the two-lane road all the way there, passing through the towns of Venafro and Castel di Sangro. It is about a 2%-hour drive from Gricignano. After arriving in Roccaraso, to reach the downhill in the cross-country area, drive about one-quarter mile past the downhill skiing area to La Batta.



Lifts operate 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The season usually runs from December through the end of February, but can extend into March.



Costs

A weekend ski pass costs 27.50 euros, (about \$37.70); a weekday pass is 23.50 euros. Transportation on the Morale, Welfare and Recreation/Navy Outdoor Recreation bus is \$10; ski rental from MWR is \$15 for adults, \$12 for children 12 and vounger.



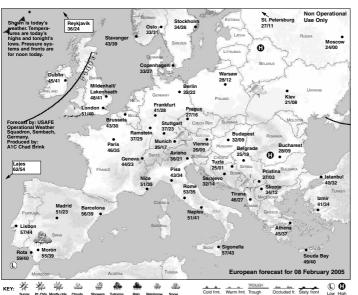
### Food

Near the lifts on the lower level, a bar sells sandwiches, pizza, coffee and hot chocolate. A restaurant is on the upper level. A nearby hotel has a restaurant.



Call Navy Outdoor Recreation Center at (+39) 081-526-1579. For ski conditions or assistance, call the Aremogna ski lift main office and ski patrol at 0864-62336

- SANDRA JONTZ



### **EUROPEAN FORECAST**

Benelux: Partly to mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 40s. Wednesday lows in the lower to mid 30s.

Britain, Ireland: Cloudy with rain-showers. Highs in the mid 40s to lower 50s. Wednesday lows in the lower 40s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Partly cloudy with dense fog overnight. Highs in the mid 20s to lower 30s. Wednesday lows in the single digits to mid teens.

France: Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 40s to lower 50s. Wednesday lows in

the mid 30s Northern Germany: Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 30s to lower 40s. Wednesday lows in the lower to

upper 20s. Southern Germany: Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid to upper 30s. Wednesday lows in the upper teens to upper 20s.

Hungary: Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 30s. Wednesday lows in the single digits.

Northern Italy: Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 30s. Wednesday lows in the lower 20s.

Southern Italy: Mostly cloudy with iso-lated rainshowers. Highs in the lower to upper 50s. Wednesday lows in the mid 30s to lower 40s.

Kosovo: Partly cloudy with dense fog overnight. Highs in the mid to upper 20s. Wednesday lows in the single

Norway: Mostly cloudy with rain and snowshowers. Highs in the lower 30s to lower 40s. Wednesday lows in the lower to upper 30s.

lower to upper 30s.

Portugal, Spain: Mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower to upper 50s. Wednesday lows in the lower 20s inland, and upper 30s to mid 40s in the coastal regions.

Turkey: Partly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the upper 20s inland, and lower 40s to lower 50s in the coastal regions. Wednesday lows in the mid teens inland, and lower to mid 30s in the coastal regions.

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAFE Operational Weather Squadron home

# https://ows.sembach.af.mil http://ows.public.sembach.af.mil SUN & MOON Full moor Feb. 24

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PAGE 18 · STARS AND S

### **Gators are phony**

AL HUNTSVILLE—Alligator heads are popping up in the pond at the University of Alabama at Huntsville, but don't worry. Officials say it's just

Officials say it's just ducky.

The life-size, ure-thane-foam alligator heads were being put in the pond to scare away ducks and gesee so the growing bird population will not become a

health hazard.

The "Gator Guard" from Bird-X
Inc. costs \$69 and has reflective orange-yellow eyes that resemble

one of the birds' natural predators.
"Our fear is that we'll put them
out and the ducks will figure out
they're not a threat," said Marcia
Green, director of the UAH office
of environmental health and safety

### Good deed gone bad

DURANGO — Two teenage girls who surprised their neighbors with homemade cookies late one night were ordered to pay nearly \$900 in medical bills for a woman who says she was so startled that she had to go to the hospital.

Taylor Ostergaard, 17, and Lindsey Jo Zelliti. 18, baked the chocolate chip and stigar cookies one night last July. They made packages with a half-dozen cookies each and added large red or pink construction-paper hearts that carried the message. "Have a great night" and were signed with their first initials: "Love, The T and L Club."

tials: "Love, The T and L Club"
Wanita Renea Young, 49, said
she was at her rural home south of
Durango around 10.30 p.m. when
she said she saw "shadowy figures" outside the house banging repeatedly on her door. She yelled,
"Who's there?" but no one answered, and the figures ran away.

Frightened, she spent the night at her sister's home, then went to the hospital the next morning because she was still shaking and had an upset stomach.

### **ID** theft charges

BURLINGTON — A woman accused of using the Internet to make it appear that she was being harassed has pleaded not guilty to a felony charge of identity that

Police officials said Bess Caney, 27, created an e-mail address with a former co-worker's name to send harassing, e-mails to herself. She is accused of then forwarding those messages to friends in an attempt to portray the former co-worker, Jeanne Landau, as unstable, according to documents filled in Vermont District Court in Burlington. Delto reside the property of the control of the property of the control of the control

Police said Landau had recently begun dating one of Carney's friends. Carney also was charged with

carney also was charged with misdemeanors of making false reports to law enforcement and unauthorized access to a computer.

Each misdemeanor carries a maximum punishment of six months in prison and a \$500 fine. The felony charge could lead to as long as three years in prison and a

### **Bomb threats continue**

GA AUGUSTA — Bomb threats at Glenn Hills Middle School have become so common that some students bring foot-



### AMERĪCAN ROUNDUP

balls and playing cards to pass the time during evacuations, police say. More than a dozen threats since the school year began, including seven the week of Jan. 10, have led to three arrests, but the calle continue. Police say the callers sound young and use tricks to evade caller ID.

### **Education assistance**

PA HARRISBURG — The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency and Gov. Ed Rendell amounced that PHEAA will add \$45 million to its need-based college grant program and create a \$10 million grant program for working adults who want to return to school. Earnings from the agency's student-loan programs will fund the expansion.

### Windy City tainted

Mayor Richard M. Daley said a series of contracting and police scandals had hurt the city's reputation and brought in a team of managers to help crack down on fraud.

Chicago has a long history of corruption and scandals, but the past few months have been especially bad, with campaign donors, contractors, former city workers and police officers facing federal corruption charges in separate investigations.

"I am concerned that our city's integrity has been harmed, our reputation tarnished," Daley said, "I know that some people think this is just business as usual. That is a very cynical view of government.



### In the buckets Four trucks from Rochester Gas &

Four trucks from Rochester Gas & Electric work on power lines along a road in Canandaiuga, N.Y. It is something I do not accept."

Daley appointed Mary Dempsey, the commissioner of the Chicago Public Library

colliniasioner of the Chicago Public Library system, to spend six months cleaning out fraud in programs in which city contracts are set aside for companies that are owned and operated by women and minorities. He appointed two former federal prosecutors to work with her.

He also announced that from now on, the city would insist on more information about contractors who seek minority and female set-aside contracts to be sure they "are who they say they are and are doing the work they're paid to do."

### **Confession to cheating**

GYPSUM — A high school graduate has confessed to cheating on an English literature test — 47 years ago.

Eagle Valley High School Princi-

pal Mark Strakbein said he got a one-page, handwritten letter from a 65-year-old grandmother of five who admitted she and a friend stole the answers to a Shakespeare test in the fall of 1957.

"I know it makes no difference now (after 47 years), except maybe this will keep some student from cheating and help them to be honest — conscience never lets you forget — there is forgivenesses with God, and I have that, but I felt I still needed to confess to the school."

Strakbein didn't release the

woman's name but said he confirmed she graduated in 1958 from Eagle County High School, which has since been consolidated into Eagle Valley High.

Strakbein said he read the letter

Strakbein said he read the letter aloud to every homeroom class as a lesson in following your conscience. "You could have heard a pin drop," he said.

drop," he said.

### Poisonous food chain

CA SIMI VALLEY — The National Park Service says tests showed two mountain lions found in December died of anticagulant poisoning from the active ingredients in household rat and mice poisons. Officials suspect the lions were poisoned by eating coyotes that had eaten poisoned rats or mice.

### Child abuse sentencing

TX HOUSTON — Jurors began considering how a Houston man convicted of the aggravated sexual assault of a 6-week-old baby should be pumished.

Keith Samuel Cook was found guilty by a Harris County grand jury of the Feb. 20, 2003, assault. He faces a sentence ranging from probation to life in prison.

When the two-day trial began, Assistant District Attorney Murray Newman told jurors it was one of the most disturbing he's seen.

The child's mother, Eugenia White, 28, has been charged with failure to report child abuse. She had been dating Cook for about six months and prosecutors say she claimed she had accidentally scratched the baby while changing a dianer,

A day after the assault, the infant was taken to a medical center, which rushed her to a children's hospital for surgery. When doctors and social work-

when doctors and social workers questioned White's story, she blamed Cook.



Bull 1 run Dwayne Hargo competes in a bull-riding event during the Los Fresnos PRCA Rodeo, held in conjunction with the 16th annual Cameron County Fair and Livestock Show in Los Fresnos, Texas. The PRCA is the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association.



Bad slide Jason Moore tumbles down a sledding hill after he flipped off of his sled during the 68th Annual Laskiainen Festival in Palo, Minn. Despite the spill Moore was unhurt and climbed back up for another run down the hill.



New England surfing rules A surfer rides turbulent Atlantic Ocean waves near Jenness Beach in Rye, N.H., during sundown.



Boarding in the sun

Beady eyes

Shelden Waterman practices a jump on his snowboard during the Snowfari event in Utica, N.Y.



Building blocks Robbi Fryer, 7, contemplates how high cover as she participates in a construction competition called the Block Kids Building Program in Maple Heights, Ohio.



Brenda Harris, with the Bexar County Palamino Patrol Drill Team, carries the American flag prior to the matinee performance of the San Antonio Rodeo at the SBC

Lone ranger

Center in San Antonio



Riders in the Krewe of Iris float throw beads to a crowd in New Orleans. Mardi Gras parades and activities are to continue through Fat Tuesday.

### Outlaw freed

BOISE — Idaho's most infamous outlaw, Claude Dallas, was released from prison after serving 22 years for the execution-style slayings of two state officers in 1981.

Dallas, 54, gained notoriety as a callous criminal and a modern-day mountain man at odds with the government. He was released after his 30-year term was cut by eight years for good behavior.

He was convicted of manslaughter in 1982 for the shooting deaths of Conley Elms and Bill Pogue, officers for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game who were investigating reports of bobcat poaching by Dallas in remote southeast Idaho.

Pogue, who had drawn his own weapon, was hit first with a shot from Dallas' handgun. Dallas then shot Elms two times in the chest before using a rifle to fire one round into each man's head.

The case made national headlines and turned Dallas into an anti-government folk hero for some — a reputation only heightneed by a 1986 jailbreak. Dallas hid for nearly a year before he was acught and sent back to prison. He was charged in the scape, but acquitted by a jury after he testified he had to break out because prison guards threatened his life.

### Officer resigns

N. ELEMINGTONA — Policie officer accused of Pelping cover up a fatal shooting at the home of former NBA star Jayson Williams entered a program for first-time offenders. Bridgewater from the department and never work again in law enforcement. He was charged with official misconduct and witness tamper-misconduct and witness tamper-

### Tree disease concerns

MINNEAPOLIS — Conditions exist for a Dutch elm emergency in Minneapolis, with high potential for losing more of the leafy urban canopy, officials said

The cause for concern: Last year, for the first time since the 1970s, Minneapolis saw a near-tri-pling of public trees afflicted with Dutch elm disease. In an average year, the city targets 1,500 trees on public land for elimination because of the disease, which is caused by a fungus spread by a because of the the number hit 4,500, said Commissioner John Erwin of the Minneapolis Park and Recre-

In all, the city ordered the destruction of 9,914 elms, the third most in a year, behind 1977 and 1978. In 2003 the city ordered fewer than 4,000 destroyed.

"We had such a dramatic boom that we fear for the whole city," Erwin said. "We are doing nothing but cutting down trees, and we can't keep up."

### Another bright idea

WV HUNTINGTON — A team of inventors has a bright idea — a better light bulb.

To demonstrate the durability of

a new kind of light bulb, Richard Begley tossed one on the ground and dipped another one under water. "Would you do that with a regu-

lar bulb?" the Marshall University

researcher asked.

The U.S. Patent and Trade office recently granted a patent for the solid-state ElectroCeramescent lighting technology, which was developed by Begley, an engineering professor, Michael Norton, a chemistry professor, and researchers from Alfred University College of Ceramics in New York and Lewisburg-based Meadow River Enterprises Inc.

The inventors are now entertaining contract offers for commercial applications for the ceramic-on-steel lights, which they say could lead to hundreds of new jobs in West Virginia.

A square foot of the new light panels consumes one-quarter of a watt or power, said Don Osborne, president of Meadow River Enterprises.

Researchers estimate the bulbs can emit their soft greenish light for 50,000 hours — or more than five years — without much maintenance.

### Polygamist wants appeal

SALT LAKE CITY — Rodney Holm, a former police officer convicted of bigamy and illegal sex with an underrage girl, appeaded Court. Holm's stay, argued that polygamy is a constitutional right. Holm was found guilty in August 2003 and sentenced to a year in jail. His conviction stemmed from his union with his third wife, who was 16 at the time.

### Development near gorge

WV CHARLESTON—A developer wants to build as many as 2,200 homes along a 10-mile stretch of the rim of the scenic New River Gorge, drawing protests from National Park Service officials.

The proposed Roaring River development would cover 4,300 acres on the west side of the deep gorge, northeast of the city of Beckley.

Developers plan homes ranging from small cabins to 3,000-square-foot "mountain estates."

Park service officials are concerned because a 613-acre section of the proposed development is on private land within the official boundary of the New River Gorge National River.

### Governor knocks \$20M

MO JEFFERSON CITY
Gov Matt Blunt, a strong
supporter of tort reform, is calling
a 520 million judgment against
Brown & Williamson Tohacco
Corp, an "egregious" example.
County jury awarded the punits
damages to the family of a deceased smoker. Blunt says used
awards are hurting Missouri's business climate.

### Gambling on casinos

TOPEKA — Gambling lobbyists put forward a new
proposal for state-owned casinos.
Doug Lawrence, a lobbyist for the
Kansas Greyhound Association.
told the Senate Federal and State
Affairs Committee the package
could provide the state with as
much as \$150 million for education, while tapping into a lucrative
tourism industry in the fiscal year
starting July 1.

Stories and photos from news wires

AFRTS Television Schedule  Updated sports tistings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFN's Web site at http://mysln.dodmeda.cod.mi/								
	(AFN-FAMILY)	(AFN-MOVIE)	(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)
9:00	Stanley	Movie "Her Hidden Truth"	Dr. Phil	Jeopardy!	Nightline	Arena Football Teams to Be	30-Minute Meals	Jeopardy!
9:30	Sagwa-Siamese Cat	(1995, Drama) Kellie Martin. A young woman must prove she		Headline News	Army Newswatch	Announced. (Taped)	Sweet Dreams	Headline News
10:00	Arthur "D.W.'s Name Game."	is innocent of arson deaths.	(9:46) Oprah Winfrey	ESPNews	Hardball With Chris Matthews	i	Best for Less	ESPNews
10:30	Reading Rainbow (EI)		(:35) Guiding Light	Advisory Block			Stripped	Pacific Report
11:00	Sagwa-Siamese Cat	(10:48) Movie ** "The Saint" (1997 Adventure) Val Kilmer A		Smallville "Memoria"	The O'Reilly Factor		E News	Smallville "Memoria"
11:30	Stanley	(1997, Adventure) val Klimer. A master of discuise finds ro-	(:17) General Hospital				The King of Queens	
12:00	Dora the Explorer	mance and danger in England.	Headline News	Movie *** "Love & Basket- hall" (2000) Sanaa Lathan A	Fox and Friends First	SportsCenter	That '70s Show 'Black Dog'	Movie *** "Something's Gotta Give" (2003) Jack Nick
12:30	The Wiggles		Judge Judy	nassion for the name leads to	Fox and Friends		Girlfriends	son. A music exec falls for the
13:00	Bob the Builder Dragon Tales (EI)	Movie ** * "Three Men and	Today Mariska Hargitay; Chris Meloni.	love for two best friends.	Fox and Friends	Motorcycle Racing THQ AMA World Supercross Grand Prix.	Charmed "Magic Hour"	mother of his young girlfriend
13:30	Blue's Clues Colds.	a Baby" (1987) Tom Selleck. Three Manhattan bachelors are	INICIOII.	(:15) Pacific Report	Fox and Friends	Motorcycle Racing THQ AMA	Ally McBeal "Bygones"	(:15) Pacific Report
14:00	Barney & Friends (EI)	left in charge of an infant.		(:45) The Tonight Show With	Fox and Friends	World Supercross Grand Prix.	Ally McBeal Bygones	(:45) The Tonight Show Wit
15:00	Funniest Home Videos	(2:58) Movie * * * 5 "To	I Spy	Jay Leno	American Morning	Sports Center	Any Day Now Rene and Bill	Jay Leno
15:30	Full House	Catch a Thief" (1955, Mystery)	Animaniacs	(:45) Late Show With David	Annothern morning	oportoochici	decide to buy a house together.	(:45) Late Show With David
16:00	Pokémon	Cary Grant Grace Kelly Jessie	All Grown Up	Letterman	CNN Live Today	NFL Total Access	Third Watch "Four Days"	Letterman
16:30	Yu-Gi-Oh!	Royce Landis.	Teen Kids News (EI)	(:45) The Late Late Show With				(:45) The Late Late Show V
17:00	Doug "Doug's Older Woman"	The Entertainers	Jeopardy!	Craig Ferguson		SportsCenter	Law & Order "High & Low"	Craig Ferguson
17:30	The Wild Thornberrys		Headline News	(:45) Dennis Miller				(:45) Dennis Miller
18:00	The Fairly OddParents	Behind the Scenes	ESPNews	(,	FOX News	NBA Basketball New York	The Simpsons	,
18:30	Rugrats	Entertainment Tonight	AFN Evening News	(:45) Countdown With Keith	1	Knicks at Utah Jazz. From the	Everybody Loves Raymond	(:45) Countdown With Keit
19:00	The Proud Family	Movie * * * * "The Silence	Smallville "Memoria"	Olbermann	DaySide With Linda Vester	Delta Center in Salt Lake City.	Star Trek: Enterprise "Harbin-	Olbermann
19:30	The Amanda Show	of the Lambs" (1991, Sus- pense) Jodie Foster, Anthony		(:45) Headline News	1	(Taped)	ger"	(:45) Headline News
20:00	Everwood "Home"	pense) Jodie Foster, Anthony Hopkins, Scott Glenn.	Movie ★★★ "Something's	Headline News	FOX News		CSI: Crime Scene Investiga-	Headline News
20:30			Gotta Give" (2003) Jack Nichol- son, A music exec falls for the	Entertainment Studios.com	1	NBA Fastbreak	tion "Inside the Box"	Entertainment Studios.com
21:00	Sister, Sister	(:12) Movie * * "Mary Reilly"	mother of his young girlfriend.	The Hot List	Studio B With Shepard Smith	The Hot List	Jackie Robinson: A Life Story	The Hot List
21:30	Sister, Sister	(1996, Horror) Julia Roberts. Dr. Jekvll's maid is drawn to the		Headline News		The Hot List		Headline News
22:00	The Cosby Show	doctor's evil alter ego.	(:15) Headline News	Good Morning America	Your World With Neil Cavuto	1st & 10	Friends	Good Morning America
22:30	Home Improvement	1	(:45) The Tonight Show With			NFL Live	Seinfeld "The Opposite"	
23:00	Touched by an Angel "Hearts"	Movie ** "Robin Hood: Men in Tights" (1993)	Jay Leno		Lester Holt Live	Around the Horn	Daily Show-Jon Stewart	
23:30		men in rights (1993)	Late Show-Letterman			Pardon the Interruption	Blind Date	
				WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY				
00:00	Aaahh! Real Monsters	(11:00) Movie ** "Robin	Late Show-Letterman	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
00:30	Rocket Power	Hood: Men in Tights" (1993)	(:45) Headline News	Bear in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News			Bear in the Big Blue House
1:00	The Fairly OddParents	(12:47) Movie *** "Wake Island" (1942, Drama) Brian	College Basketball Boston College at Notre Dame, (Live)	Blue's Clues (EI)	ABC World News Tonight	College Basketball Illinois at Michigan, (Live)	Star Trek: Enterprise "Harbin- ner"	Blue's Clues (EI)
1:30	Rugrats	Donleyv. Robert Preston.		Wheel of Fortune	CBS Evening News	Mildigal. (Live)	9**	Wheel of Fortune Dr. Phil
2:00	The Proud Family The Amanda Show	0	4	Ur. Phil	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		CSI: Crime Scene Investiga- tion "Inside the Box"	Dr. Phil
2:30 3:00	Everwood "Home"	Coming Attractions  Movie **** "The Silence	NBA Nation Matt Winer, Greg	Oprah Winfrey	Hannity & Colmes	College Basketball Florida at	Jackie Robinson: A Life Story	Onesh Willedown
3:00	Everwood nome	of the Lambs" (1991, Sus- pense) Jodie Foster, Anthony	Anthony Tim Legler and Steven	Oprail Willirey	naming a comies	Kentucky. (Live)	Jackie Hobilison: A Life Story	Opran williney
4:00	Sister, Sister	pense) Jodie Foster, Anthony	Anthony, Tim Legler and Steven A. Smith provide highlights and	NBC Nightly News	Headline News		Friends	NBC Nightly News
4:30	Sister, Sister	Hopkins, Scott Glenn.	analysis. (Live)	Judge Judy	Nightly Business Report		Seinfeld "The Opposite"	Judge Judy
5:00	Sesame Street (EI)	(:12) Movie * * "Mary Reilly"	Headline News	Access Hollywood	Lou Dobbs Tonight	SportsCenter	Breathingspace Yoga	Access Hollywood
5:30		(1996, Horror) Julia Roberts.	ESPNews	(:25) Guiding Light	1		Caribbean Workout	(:25) Guiding Light
6:00	Barney & Friends (EI)	Dr. Jekyll's maid is drawn to the doctor's evil alter ego.	Headline News	(:13) General Hospital	Larry King Live	NBA Fastbreak	Body Shaping	(:13) General Hospital
6:30	Blue's Clues	ductor's evil alter ego.	Headline News	1		College Gamenight	TIPical Mary Ellen	
7:00	Dragon Tales (EI)	The Entertainers	Play With Me Sesame	Larry King Live	NewsNight With Aaron Brown	NFL Total Access	The View	Sylvester & Tweety
7:30	Bob the Builder		Bear in the Big Blue House					Buzz Lightyear of Star
8:00	The Wiggles	Behind the Scenes	Blue's Clues (EI)	SpongeBob SquarePants	BET Nightly News	SportsCenter	Emeril Live	SpongeBob SquarePants
8:30	Dora the Explorer	Entertainment Tonight	Wheel of Fortune	Batman Beyond	Tavis Smiley			Batman Beyond
9:00	Stanley "Dolphin Talk"	Movie "Friends 'Til the End" (1997) Shannen Doherty, Jennifer	Dr. Phil	Jeopardy!	Nightline	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Taped)	30-Minute Meals	Jeopardy!
9:30	Sagwa-Siamese Cat	Blanc A sinister misft worms her		Headline News	Headline News	Armounceu. (Tapeu)	Food 911	Headline News
10:00	Arthur (EI) Reading Rainbow (EI)	way into a singer's life.	(9:46) Oprah Winfrey (:35) Guiding Light	ESPNews Advisory Block	Hardball With Chris Matthews	l	Sensible Chic Fashion File	ESPNews Pacific Report
10:30 11:00	Sagwa-Siamese Cat	(10:47) Movie *** "Bat-	(.35) Guiding Light	That '70s Show	The O'Reilly Factor	ł	E! News Live	That '70s Show
11:00	Stanley "Frog Legs"	man" (1989) Michael Keaton.	(:17) General Hospital	Arrested Development	S mainy ractor	SportsCenter	The King of Queens	Arrested Development
12:00	Dora the Explorer	The Caped Crusader vows to	Headline News	The Casino	Fox and Friends First	1	That '70s Show	Extreme Makeover: Home
12:00	The Wiggles "Animals"	rid Gotham City of the Joker.	Judge Judy	1		NBA Basketball Teams to Be	Girlfriends	Edition "Mendoza Family"
13:00	Bob the Builder	Movie ** * "Mother" (1996,	Today Today's Family.	The District "Jupiter for Sale"	Fox and Friends	Announced. (Taped)	Charmed "Once Upon a Time"	Lost
13:30	Dragon Tales (EI)	Comedy) Albert Brooks, A man				l		l
14:00	Blue's Clues	moves in with his mother for a stab at self-analysis.		Pacific Report	Fox and Friends	1	Strong Medicine 'Pilot'	Pacific Report
14:30	Barney & Friends (EI)			The Tonight Show With Jay	1	l	·	The Tonight Show With Jay
15:00	Funniest Home Videos	Movie *** "Winchell"	Sylvester & Tweety	Leno	American Morning	SportsCenter	Any Day Now "Don't Say Any-	Leno
15:30	Full House	(1998) Stanley Tucci, Glenne Headly, The life of controversial	Buzz Lightyear of Star	Late Show With David Letter-			thing"	Late Show With David Lett
16:00	Booker	Headly. The life of controversial liournalist Walter Winchell.	SpongeBob SquarePants	man	CNN Live Today	Road to the Pro Bowl	Third Watch "Jimmy's Moun-	man
16:30			Batman Beyond	The Late Late Show With	1		tain"	The Late Late Show With
17:00	Doug Doug has an accident.	Inside the Actors Studio "Cate Blanchett" Cate Blanchett	Jeopardy!	Craig Ferguson	1	SportsCenter	Law & Order "Stiff"	Craig Ferguson
17:30	The Wild Thornberrys		Headline News	Dennis Miller	PAN III	0.0	71. 0'	Dennis Miller
18:00	The Fairly OddParents	Coming Attractions	AFNews on Assignment	0	FOX News	College Basketball Illinois at	The Simpsons	0
18:30	Rugrats	Entertainment Tonight	AFN Evening News	Countdown With Keith Olber- mann	D 01 WW 11 1 W	Michigan.	Everybody Loves Raymond	Countdown With Keith Olb
19:00	Even Stevens	Movie *** * "Schindler's List" (1993. Drama) Liam Nee-	That '70s Show		DaySide With Linda Vester	l	American Idol	
19:30	Kenan & Kel "The Crush"	son, Ben Kingsley, Ralph Fi-	Arrested Development	Access Hollywood	FOV N		T	Access Hollywood
20:00	Gilmore Girls Lorelai's father visits	ennes. A war profiteer saves his	Extreme Makeover: Home Edition "Mendoza Family"	Headline News Entertainment Studios.com	FOX News	College Gamenight ESPNews	Tim Allen Presents: A User's Guide to Home Improvement	Headline News Entertainment Studios.com
20:30		Jewish workers from death.	Lost	The Hot List	Studio B With Shanard Smith	The Hot List	Wild and Weird Rockets	The Hot List
21:00	Degrassi: Next Degrassi: Next	1	LUST	The Hot List Headline News	Studio B With Shepard Smith	The Hot List	will and weird Hockets	The Hot List Headline News
21:30	The Cosby Show	(:15) Movie **** "The	Headline News	Good Morning America	1	1st & 10	Friends	Good Morning America
22:00	Home Improvement	(:15) Movie ***** The "Greatest Show on Earth"	The Tonight Show With Jav	GOOD MORNING AMERICA	Your World With Neil Cavuto	NFL Live	Friends Seinfeld "The Chaperon"	Good morning America
23:00	Touched by an Angel "God-	(1952, Drama) Charlton Heston.	Leno	l	Lester Holt Live	Around the Horn	Daily Show-Jon Stewart	ł
23:30	speed"	Betty Hutton, James Stewart.	Late Show-Letterman	i		Pardon the Interruption	Blind Date	ł
20.00								



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### **FACES**

### McCartney refutes reports

Stung by media sniping at his wife, Paul McCartney wants to set the record straight. She doesn't make decisions for him, didn't tell him to dye his graying hair, and gets along just fine with his kids.

The former Beatle posted a message Friday on Heather Mills McCartney's official Web site, rebutting some of the "scurrilous reports" about the model turned anti-landmine cam-



plain malevolence but some of it is so ridiculous that I have to admit it's funny," wrote the musician, who headlined the Super Bowl halftime

Britain's tabloid press has reported animosity between Mills McCartney, 37, and the musician's children from his marriage to Linda McCartney, who died of cancer in 1998.

But McCartney said his adult children "get on great" with their stepmother. He and Mills McCartney have a 1-year-old daughter, Beatrice.

### N. Korea wants ban on 'Team America'

North Korea's embassy in Prague has demanded that the film "Team America: World Police" be banned in the Czech Republic, saying the movie harms their country's reputation, a report said Saturday.

In the film by "South Park" creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone, a team of marionettes rushes to keep North Korean leader Kim Jong II from destroying the world, reducing world capitals to rubble along the way

"It harms the image of our country," the Lidove Noviny daily quoted a North Korean diplomat as saying. "Such behavior is not part of our country's political culture. Therefore, we want the film to be banned.

The Czech Foreign Ministry said the film would not be banned in the Czech Republic.

"We told them it's an unrealistic wish," ministry spokesman Vit Kolar was quoted as saying. "Obviously, it's absurd to demand that in a democratic country.

### Freeman picks sweet home Mississippi

Morgan Freeman has an easy answer when people ask why he chose to live in Mississippi: "I'm a major, internationally famous motion picture star. I can live where I want to.

Freeman, who has appeared in more than 50 films and has been nominated for four Academy Awards, grew up in Mississippi but left the area in 1955. "I had no plans to come back

here," Freeman said this past week as he was added to the Leflore County Hall of Fame. "I was just going to keep going."

But he was drawn back by his parents and returned to live in Charleston in 1992 When he returned he remembered why the place felt right.

"All my life, I felt nurtured because I was here," he said

"I was raised by a whole village, and I feel blessed for that.

### Actor says goodbye to 'JAG'

David James Elliott is ending his "JAG" service after a decade.

Elliott, who plays military attorney Cmdr. Harmon "Harm" Rabb Jr., will leave the CBS series when it concludes its 10th season in May, the network said Friday. With his "JAG" deal ending this year, Elliott signed a

series development deal with ABC and Touchstone Television.1

Whether the Navy drama, which first aired on NBC and moved to CBS in its second year, will return for the 2005-06 season was uncertain

"JAG" creator Donald Bellisario is introducing a new character who could fill the void left by Elliott: Chris Beetem, formerly of "As the World Turns," joins the cast this month as a new JAG team member.

The series, which airs Friday, co-stars Catherine Bell, Patrick Labyorteaux, Scott Lawrence and Zoe McLellan

# Rock on

# Comedian rolls into Oscar gig

BY BETH HARRIS

The Associated Press

BURBANK, Calif. hris Rock's eves darted around the room, studying the chattering group of international print journal-He licked his lips, clasped his hands ... and only

dropped one F-bomb as they questioned him in a variety of "I'm never proper or careful, but I never curse in front

of my mother, either," Rock told the writers. So he's not worried about getting bleeped on worldwide TV when he hosts the Feb. 27 Oscar ceremony. "I don't think people are nervous," Rock said later dur-

ing an interview with The Associated Press. "I just came off tour in America, a million people came to see me. They weren't nervous.' Shooting a glance at Oscar show producer Gil Cates, he

asked, "Are you, Gil? Cates didn't flinch.

Neither has the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, although having the acerbic Rock as host is certainly a change of pace. The academy is known for its sedate style and the predominantly older, white membership that fills the Oscar night audience

Rock mimicked the typical question he gets these days: "Oh, a black comic, how are you going to make it whiter? I'm like, 'Dude, look around, can you get any whit-

He honed his off-the-cuff style during a three-year run on "Saturday Night Live," plus the club circuit and hit HBO specials. "How do I say this without sounding like

an egomaniac?" he said. "I don't know a comedian that sells more seats than me in the red states and blue states, so I don't see where I have to change that much. At least some of Rock's cockiness

stems from the positive response he received during his recent "Black Ambition"

"When I'm in West Palm Beach, Fla., there re old Jewish people at the show," he said When I'm in New Mexico, it's Mexicans. "Wherever I'm at, the people show up,

Hip-hopping into the traditional footsteps of such Oscar emcees as Billy Crystal and the late Johnny Carson appealed to Rock, although he revealed he turned down the chance to host the Oscar cast several times before, believing it was "an old man's gig. But he's 39 now, and it feels right.

"I like the tradition of the Oscars," he said. "I like that some of the greatest comedians ever have host-

How did Cates choose Rock as host? "Billy is doing a show in New York," he said, "Steve Martin is doing a movie — " Rock cut him off, "Ellen DeGeneres has crabs. Jay Leno's got a gig. They got to the R's. Burt Reynolds said no.

Creating an immediate buzz on Oscar night is Rock's No. 1 challenge

"A great monologue does it." he said. "The secret to hosting awards shows is like sports - get a big lead and run out



Comedian and actor Chris Rock speaks with journalists about hosting the 77th Annual Academy Awards on Jan. 21 during a news conference in Burbank, Calif. Having the acerbic Rock as host is a change of pace for the academy, known for its sedate style.

"Then kind of hand off the ball and assist the show." As a kid in Brooklyn, N.Y., Rock tuned in the Oscar show for the host's monologue, then tuned out.

"Any black people nominated? No. oh, back to bed."

Not the case this year. Jamie Foxx is a best actor nominee for "Ray" and a supporting actor nomi-nee for "Collateral" — two of this year's record five acting nominations for black performers.

'If he doesn't win, I will steal the sound editing Oscar." Rock declared.

Cates reminded him that award usually has multiple winners.

"They're all punks," Rock shot back.

Rock isn't a member of the academy, despite acting in "Head of State," "Bad Company,"

'New Jack City," "I'm Gonna Git You Sucka!" and, of course, "Pootie Tang." Why not? "If you're darker than a paper bag, you

can't get in," he said.

Working a live audience is Rock's forte, a good thing since the Oscars are broadcast in real time around the world. ABC has not yet decided whether there will be a delay on the broadcast to protect against stray profanities, as there was in last year's post-Janet Jackson crackdown.

An Emmy-winning writer himself for his cable specials. Rock hired his own writing staff, and expects contributions from famous pals David Spade, Adam Sandler and Eddie Murphy.

"I've been kissing [expletive] for years and now I'm going to reap the rewards," he said, cackling. "I've been paying for a lot of dinners and now I want jokes, damn it!"

How will Rock know if he's killing the Kodak Theatre audience on Oscar night? "I'll probably pay more attention to the musicians in the pit than the stars because they're the closest you're going to get to normal people in the audi-

ence," he said. "If I can get them laughing, I know I got the whole world laughing.

Stories and photos from the Associated Press

### **Horoscope**

It's Mardi Gras, a holiday believed to have ancient roots in some sort of intercalary season, in other words, related to a number of days inserted in a year to make a **Holiday Mathis** lunar calendar sync up with a solar calendar. These added days seemed to exist outside of time and therefore were seen as an opportunity to abandon protocol

and simply go wild. TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (February 8). There's a paradox at work this year: The more independent and self-sufficient you become, the more you are supported in your endeavors. Quick business wins are featured through the spring but spend wisely, or you experience financial losses. A fabulous June vacation progresses your love life. For new romance, Virgo and Taurus are terrific

### ARIES (March 21-April 19).

Your curiosity is piqued. Fascinating characters cross your path, and there's talk of changes on the horizon. Instead of being fearful, be on the cutting edge by conducting an interview of someone who seems to know what's going on.

### TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The more interest you show in a

subject or a person, the more interesting that subject or person becomes. It may feel like you're still getting to know someone who's been in your life for years.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). A loving partner is just what you need to ground you. Together, you find solutions for today's strange and random problems. Laughter makes it all better, too. If you're single, a Virgo or Capricom friend will be your

### CANCER (June 22-July 22). The obstacles you build in your mind

have nothing to do with reality. This is especially true in reference to a central relationship. In actuality, one courageous phone call could solve everything.

### LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The

world may be in disarray, it's not the world's fault. Rather, it's our way of

mentally ordering information that makes it confusing. Get clarity by removing yourself from the muddle to look at things from another point of view.

### VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

The stars whisper to you - pause to listen. They say things like "Be careful not to fall in love with someone's potential. You are observant and willing to see things how they are now instead of how they ought to be

### LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You feel that if you hesitate, you'll lose out. The reality is that if you hesitate, you'll

be dragged along a rocky path behind the rest. So it's time to jump in on your own two feet and run forward

### SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your impressions are accurate as

usual, but the differing opinions of those around you may knock you off your center. Approach new relationships with caution. The first 15 minutes determine how the rest will

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your physical body is strongly affected by thoughts now. Look in the mirror, and give yourself the nod

of approval or, better yet, a pep talk. This will noticeably improve your health

### CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan.

19). You're like a detective, ferreting out the true motivations of others seemingly illogical behaviors are clever disguises that you see right through. Use what you know to find true-blue friends

### AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Take nothing out of context. Each event is connected to the one before it and will affect the one after it. Your sliding sense of the past, present and future will guide you toward

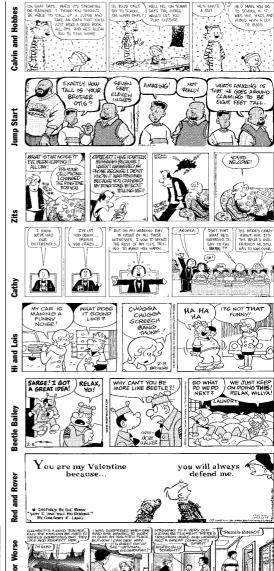
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PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Money is just money, so put those worries in their proper perspective and realize what the real issue is priorities. If you can imagine something you'd rather be doing, then perhaps it's time to do that instead.

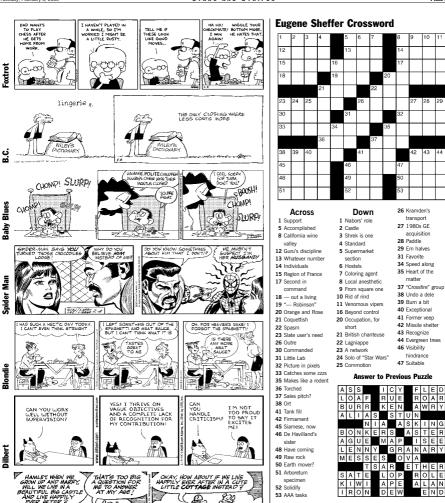
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### **Peanuts**





Tuesday, February 8, 2005 STARS AND STRIPES · PAGE 23



THE

OPIE IS ON THE TRAIL

### 2-8 CRYPTOQUIP

NGLU JIYSUM EY Q GKZZKZ

VJKZI, IKE XEVJU'J PKZMLJ

JK QFFKN PKZ Q XQZMSU

P JLZZKZ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF I BEGAN COLLECTING BREATH-FRESHENER WRAPPERS, I'D WANT THEM IN MINT CONDITION.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals R

AACH00

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion I'm running

WHY THE OPERA-

TOR WENT TO WORK DESPITE

A HEAVY COLD

Now arrange the circled letters to

(Answers tomorrow)

You should

go home

### The tale of the lady and the tramp

Dear Abby: In 1964, I read a column of your mother's that hit home with me. It was about a man leaving his wife, a lady, for a tramp. I was enduring a similar situation at that time, and my mother cut the column out and gave it to me to comfort me. The clipping, now fragile and vellowed with age, was a contributing factor in my

healing Now I'd like to do the same for others who are experiencing my pain. There appears to be an epidemic of spousal infidelity here.

It would help them if you would reprint that article.

Curiosity prompts me to inquire whether professionals were consulted regarding that inspired response. Would you please consider printing it again? - Longtime Reader in New York

Dear Longtime Reader: No professional was consulted my mother was a woman of great insight. The letter first appeared and I'm pleased to reprint it.

Dear Abby: Why will a married man pick up a tramp and treat her like a lady, then turn around and treat his wife (who is a lady) like a tramp?

Dear Minnie: A man picks up a tramp because he wants a fe male companion who is no hetter than he is In her company, he doesn't feel inferior. He rewards her by treating her like a lady

"He treats his wife (who is a lady) like a tramp because he feels that by degrading her,

he will bring her down to his level. This makes him feel guilty, so to get even with his wife for making him feel guilty, he keeps right on punishing her.

Vears later a reader asked "What is the difference between a lady and a tramp?" Mother

readers for their input. Their answers were enlightening and reviewing them is like looking into a time cansule.

"The difference between a lady and tramp? About three drinks."

Tends Bar in Milwaukee

"A lady goes out, goes home and goes to bed. A tramp goes out, goes to bed, then goes home

'There's no difference. Kipling said, 'The Colonel's lady and Judy O'Grady are sisters under their skin.'

- F.C.H. in Texarkana

"The difference between a lady and a tramp is men with big

- Met a Few

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at http://www.uexpress.com/dearabby Universal Press Syndicate

one letter to each square to form four ordinary words



NULDOA

LEVVET

form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Ans: THE

Jumbles: ENACT DAISY GARISH KITTEN Answer: What Mom faced when she forgot to thaw dinner - "ICY" STARES

# ivorce never easy for families

Dear Annie: Because you offer reasonable and caring solutions. I want to ask your opinion about this problem. My son and his wife, the parents of a 4-year-old girl, divorced recently.

Although the mother suffers from mental illness, the judge placed the little girl with her mom, with the under standing that the mother would receive regular medication monitoring and outpatient therapy, which she had not sought during the prior 17 months. The judge ordered that my son would be allowed to have frequent and liberal visitation with his daughter.

The problem is that one month later, the mother is already manipulating the situation and refusing visits to my son. It is extremely frustrating that she is allowed to get away with noncompliance and not putting the best interests of their daughter before her own desire to punish my son. My ex-daughter-in-law was the

Annie's Mailbox

one who wanted out of the marriage, and she is the one who moved away. Is there any way for my little grand-daughter to win?

Hurting Grandma Dear Grandma: It's terribly sad when divorced parents cannot put the needs of their children first, but it is a common problem. If your ex-daugh

ter-in-law is not complying with a court order, your son should speak to his attorney and see that the matter is brought up in court as soon as possible.

Encourage your son not to give up on his daughter, no matter how difficult his ex-wife makes things, and to keep on top of the situation to be sure his daughter remains safe

Dear Annie: Whenever my father comes over to our house for a family get-together, he immediately sits down and turns on the television. He doesn't get along well with any other mem

bers of the family and resorts to watching TV as an excuse not to make conversation.

I talked to Dad about this last night, and he said if I can't put up with his TV watching. I shouldn't invite him to these informal parties. Annie, I really love my father, but he's putting

> - Between a Rock and a Hard Place in Missouri

Dear Rock: If you're asking us if Dad is rude, the answer is ves. If you're asking what you can do about it, your father already has provided the answer. Since

he doesn't get along with any other family members, it's quite an indication of his love for you that he bothers to show up at these events. Either let him watch TV in peace, or invite him over when you don't have other company.

Company.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox., Co Creators Syndicate. 577? M. Century Blvd., Suiter 700, Los Angeles, CA 50045.

**Family Circus** 



"There wasn't enough snow to give him a body."

# GRAFFITI



"So, is this goory supposed to make **M.E** Fall Asleep before the ending, or **YOU**?"



"Whoa, back off, Bobby Joe. ..



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# Poutiainen ready to take on worlds

BY ANDREW DAMPF

SANTA CATERINA VALFURVA, Italy — The Alpine World Championships are halfway done, and the season's top female skier is just arriving.

the season's top female skier is just arriving.

Tanja Poutiainen of Finland leads the overall
World Cup standings on the strength of results in
the giant slalom and slalom.

In fact, Poutiainen didn't even bother entering the speed races that opened the championships, choosing instead to train in nearby Switzerland for her first race, Tuesday's giant slalom.

While she has won only one giant slalom this season, Poutiainen nonetheless leads the World Cup standings in that discipline by virtue of consistency, with no finish lower than seventh.

Last month, on the course being used for the worlds, Poutiainen finished sixth in a World Congiant slalom. That race was won by Slovenial's Tina Maze, the most exciting giant slalom racer this season with three victories in six World Cup races. She's also has been inconsistent, finishing outside the top 10 in the other three races.

While Poutiainen and Maze are seeking a breakthrough in a major event, Sweden's Anja Paerson enters as the defending giant slalom world champion and new super giant slalom gold medalist, having won the opening race of this meet.

"It's a hilly slope that reminds me about St. Moritz," Paerson said, referring to the Swiss resort where she won the GS gold in 2003.

Paerson has not won a giant slalom since the World Cup opener in Soelden, Austria, in October, al-

though she maintains this is her best event.

Paerson's top rival among all-around skiers, Jani-



Finland's Tanja Poutiainen leads the overall World Cup standings due almost entirely to her results in the technical disciplines of giant slalom and slalom.

ca Kostelic, could also challenge. The Croat already has won the combined and downhill in these worlds.
"I've got two medals. I'm just going to enjoy it and not think about medals," said Kostelic, whose status for the race was questionable Monday night because of a cough and fever.

cause of a cough and fever.

Kostelic was the 2002 Olympic giant slalom champion but has never won a World Cup or world cham-

pionship race in the discipline.

Another favorite is Austria's Marlies Schild, a slalom specialist until this season who won the World Cup giant slalom in St. Moritz in December.

Italy's Karen Putzer won three giant slaloms in 2002-03 and only now is regaining her form after a series of injuries. She finished second to Maze in the last World Cup giant slalom before the worlds on Jan. 22.

Spain's Maria Jose Rienda Contreras, fifth in the World Cup giant slalom standings, also has a chance for a medal, as do Canadians Genevieve Simard and Allison Forsyth

# Agassi is returning to Davis Cup team

BY HOWARD FENDRICH The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Andre Agassi will return to the U.S. Davis Cup team after a five-year absence, The Associated Press learned

Monday.

The U.S. Tennis Association planned to announce Monday or Tuesday that Agassi will rejoin the squad for its first-round match against Croatia on March 4-6 at Carson, Calif., a tennis source told the AP on condition of announcity.

The eight-time Grand Slam tournament champion, who turns 35 in April, stopped playing Davis Cup after 2000 as part of a scaled-back schedule geared to

peaking for the majors.

He was a member of three
Davis Cup championship teams,
going 30-5 in singles. Current
U.S. captain Patrick McEnne
traveled to Agassi's hometown of
Las Vegas after the Australian
Open to meet for dimner and tru
p persuade him to return to the

"Some of my greatest memories are playing Davis Cup," Agassi said last week in a conference call. "The regrets I have about not playing are regrets I we had for the last few years, and still remain that way, which is being a part of a new generation and trying to win the Davis Cup again."

The United States has won the competition a record 31 times, but not since 1995 — the team's longest drought since the gap between titles in 1926 and 1937. The Americans lost to Spain in last year's Davis Cup final.

"At this time, we're not prepared to make any announcement regarding the USA vs. Croatia Davis Cup first round," USTA spokesman Randy Walker said Monday. "We'll certainly inform everybody when Patrick is ready to name the team."

Agassi's agent, Perry Rogers, did not immediately return a phone call Monday.

John McEnroe, Patrick's brother and predecessor as captain, cited an inability to get Agassi and Pete Sampras to play Davis Cup regularly as a reason for stepping down after just 14 months as captain of the United States squad.

Bringing Agassi back into the fold would improve the team—and help sell tickets. He was ranked No. 1 as recently as early 2003, is 10th in the world now and is still the sport's most popular male player.

"Having him as part of our team will certainly help our chances, not to mention what it would do for teams, period," Patrick McErnoe said last week. "It would be a positive thing for the sport and tennis overall in this country in having people see our young guy, Andy Roddick, with a legend. ... It would really take the interest up a notch or two."

The captain has said that he wouldn't require or expect Agassi to participate in every round of this year's Davis Cup. Roddick, who finished 2003 ranked No. 1 and won the U.S. Open that season, is entrenched as the top U.S. singles player.

The second singles slot for Davis Cup has been rotating; Mardy Fish filled that role against Spain. Twin brothers Bob and Mike Bryan are the U.S. doubles team.

"I have talked to him. We have discussed it. I've let him know that I'm 100 percent supportive, if he wants to join us. You know, I definitely want him on the team," Roddick said last week.

"Selfishly, I'd love to be around him and learn, be in that close contact with him for a week."

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### Keeper Friedel retires from U.S. national team

BY RONALD BLUM The Associated Press

MIAMI — Goalkeeper Brad Friedel is retiring from the U.S. national soccer team, leaving Kasey Keller as the favorite to be in goal through the 2006 World Cup.

"I would like to spend my time away from my club team with my family," Friedel said during a conference call Monday. "The second reason is based on prolonging my club career, because I have picked up, albeit slight, muscular injuries recently.

"When I was traveling around, I was feeling worn down. I haven't felt worn down in quite some time, and I think a lot of that is attributed to the fact that I'm not flying everywhere and playing in high-level, competitive

The 33-year-old Friedel, the

starter for Blackburn in England, beat out Keller for the starting job in the 2002 World Cup, in which the United States advanced to the quarterfinals, its best showing since 1930. He played a huge part, stopping penalty kicks against South Korea and Poland.

"Certainly his performance in the 2002 World Cup was a huge factor in our success," said U.S. coach Bruce Arena, who twice tried to talk Friedel out of his decision in the past two months or so.

Friedel has played just once for the United States since the World Cup, in an exhibition game in Poland in March.

Friedel, who made his national team debut in 1992, played in the past three World Cups and finishes with 24 shutouts in 82 international appearances. He was voted the top goalkeeper in the Premier League by fellow players at the end of the 2002-2003 season.

Kenny Perry, \$174,200 70-67-67-70-274 C. Warren, \$161,200 69-68-69-69-275 Hunter Mahan, \$145,600 68-69-72-67-276

Hunter Mahan, \$145,600 68-89-72-67—276 M. Calcavecchia, \$145,600 74-66-65-71-276 J. Parnevik, \$100,100 73-70-69-65-277 John Rollins, \$100,100 71-72-66-68-277 Vijay Singh, \$100,100 71-72-66-68-277 P. Sheehan, \$100,100 72-66-70-69-277

### **SCOREBOARD**

### AFN TV & Radio

### Tuesday

AFN-Sports, 1 a.m.—College basketball: Connecticut at Syracuse. AFN-Atlantic, 2 a.m.—Bowling: PBA Atlanta (dld).

(did). AFN-Sports and Radio, 3 a.m.—College bas-ketball: Oklahoma at Oklahoma AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—Pro hootball: Arena AFN-Sports, 1 p.m.—Motorcycle racing: AFN-Sports, 1 p.m.—Motorcycle racing: THQ World Supercross GP (Anaheim) (did). AFN-Sports, 6 p.m.—Pro basketball: New York at Utah (did).

### Wednesday

AFN-Atlantic, 1 a.m.--College basketball: Boston College at Notre Dame. AFN-Sports, 1 a.m.--College basketball: Illi-ois at Michigan

ois at Michigan.

AFN-Sports, 3 a.m.--College basketball:
lorida at Kentucky. lorida at Kentucky. AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.--Pro basketball: Toron-o at Cleveland (dld). AFN-Sports, 12:30 p.m.--Pro basketball: Chi-

cago at Dallas (dld).

AFN-Sports, 4 p.m.--Pro football: Road to he Pro Bowl (dld). AFN-Sports, 6 p.m.-College basketball: Illi-lois at Michigan (dld). AFN-Sports, 9 p.m.-College basketball: 'he Season Weekly: Wake Forest Basketball

All times are Central European Time; dld in-dicates delayed broadcast. All listings are subject to change. Visit www.myafn.net for more information.

### College basketball

### AP Men's Top 25 fared

### Sunday . Illinois (23-0) beat Indiana 60-47. Next: at

I. Illinois (23-9) heat Indiana 69-47. Next at Michigan, Inselling (13-2) heat Findian State Michigan, Inselling (13-2) heat Findian State Beach and Indiana for the Indiana State Beach and Indiana State Medically plays, Next vs. No. 2 heat State Medically plays, Next vs. No. 2 heat State Medical (20-3) did not play, Next vs. No. 2 heat State Medical (20-3) did not play, Next vs. No. 2 heat State Medical (23-3) did not play, Next vs. No. 2 heat State Medical (23-3) did not play, Next vs. No. 2 heat State Medical (23-3) did not play, Next vs. No. 2 connection, Medical (23-3) did not play, Next vs. No. 2 connection, Medical (23-3) did not play, Next vs. Memorials, Wednesday, 17-7) did not play, Next vs. Next vs. Memorials, Wednesday, 17-7) did not play, Next vs. Next vs. Next vs. Memorials, Wednesday, 17-7) did not play, Next vs. Next vs. Next vs. Memorials, Wednesday, 17-7) did not play, Next vs. Next vs. Memorials, Wednesday, 17-7) did not play, Next vs. Next vs. Next vs. Memorials, Wednesday, 17-7) did not play, Next vs. N

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21 Loudwiller Goly Jul of me play, Next: vs.
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21. Utah (19-3) dia not piay. Next: at UNLV, Monday. 22. Maryland (13-7) did not piay. Next: vs. Virginia Tech, Tuesday. 23. Connecticut (14-5) did not piay. Next: at No. SSyracuse, Monday. 24. Villanova (13-5) did not piay. Next: vs. Saint Joseph's, Monday. 25. Georgia Tech (13-7) did not piay. Next: at Clemson, Tuesday.

### Sunday's men's scores

Sunday's ment's scores
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East

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### AP Women's Top 25 fared

AF WOMEN'S 100 25 Tareu

Sunday

Sunday

1. 150 (21.) Sunday

Next vs. No. 5 Tennessee, Thursday

2. Ohlo State (2.29) beat Indiana 78-46.

3. Duke (22.9) beat No. 34 Florida State

5-60, Next at Maryland, Sunday

1. Sunday (2.9) beat No. 34 Florida State

5-60, Next at Maryland, Sunday

1. Sunday (2.9) beat Next at Call
forina, Floriday

1. Sunday

No. 16 Boston College, Wednesday. 12. Texas Tech (16-4) did not play. Next: vs.

owa State, Tuesday. 13. Texas (13-7) did not play. Next: vs. Ne-yraska, Wednesday.

10.1 Texas (1127) füll ond play, Next vs. Next Next (1127) füll ond play, Next vs. Next Next (1127) beat Michigan 76-55. Next vs. No. 10 Michigan 78-16. Next vs. Scale 78-16. Next vs. Next vs

23. Perin State (14-5) lost to Purdue 50-44. Next: vs. Indiana, Thursday. 24. Florida State (19-5) lost to No. 3 Duke 75-60. Next: vs. Clemson, Wednesday. 25. North Carolina State (16-5) did not play. Next: at Georgia Tech, Thursday.

### Sunday's women's scores

Sunday's women's scoret

LAST

Army 89, Nays 81

LAST

Cardistra 71, Loydo, Mar 74

DrYowline 15, Poly Technic 23

Provine 15, Poly Technic 21

Provine 15, Poly Technic 21

Lasalle 71, William 8, Mary 61

Lasalle 71, Fortham 88

March 15, Poly 16, Lelly 46

March 16

Trinity, Texas 78, Oglethorpe 64
Bernidi St. 60, MIDWEST
Brandist 59, Wushington, Mo. 55
Chicago 67, PVU St. 64
Drusy 78, Incarnate Word 65
Indiana St. 79, Orable 71
St. 70, Poste 71
St. 70, Po

### College baseball

Sunday's scores

Sunday's scores
Ametirong Adlentic 12, Felician 3
Barry 15, Mars Hills
Barry 15, Mars Hills
Catasha 12, 13, Barron 6-2
Colamba S. C., West Alabama 3
Colamba S. C., West Alabama 3
Florida Gulf Coast 8, Albany S. G.a. 0
Florida Sculment 1, Wingate 4
Kennesaw 10, Limestone 2
Kennesaw 10, Limestone 2
Louislan Tech 9, McNees 61, 1
Louislan Tech 9, McNees 61, 1
Louislan Tech 9, McNees 61, 1
Lynn 8, Koota Sculment 10
Methods 12, Gaalifort 10

Mount Olive 4, Newberry 3 N. Carolina A&T 4, Duke 1 N.C.-Pembroke 4, Anderson, S.C. 2 N.C. State 3, Delaware St. 1 N.C.-Wilmington 16, Md-Eastern Shore 0 Rollins 6, Belmont Abbey 5 S.C.-Aiken 7, Lincoln Memorial 6 S.C.-Upstate 8, Bloomfield 2 South Florida 16, Bethune-Cookman 4

Such Personnel 2 okuman 2 okuman 5 okum

### Saturday's scores

SOUTH Armstrong Atlantic 7, Felician 0 Auburn 11, Hofstra 3 Amstrong Atlantic 7, Helicano A Aubum 11, Hostis 7-5, Berry 6-6, Barry 6, Liyan 6, 19-7, Serry 6-6, 19-7, Serry 6-7, Serry 6-7

William Carey 7, Spaiding 3
SUJITHWEN-1
Arizona St. 10, GORZWEN-1
ST. 10, GORZWE

Mary's, Calif. 1, 10 inn. ska-Kearney 5-5

### College hockey

### Sunday's scores

EAST Framingham St. 4, Suffolk 0

### Saturday's scores

Saturday's scores
Alabama-Hurtsville A. Niagana 2.
Assumption 5, Sonohill 3
Canadas C. S

SPRING TRAINING TO WORLD

Bowling Green 4, Ferris St. 2
Colorado College 2, Minn-Mankato 2, tie
Derwert & Bern Bauer St. 2
Einstein St. 2
Lake Forest 3, Wish. Silver Falls 2
Lake Forest 3, Wish. Silver Sil Army 6, Royal Military 1

### **Hockey East**

EUAU									
	w	L	т	Pts	GF	GA			
Cornell	12	2	2	26	47	21			
Colgate	11	4	1	23	42	28			
larvard	11	4	1	23	52	32			
/ermont	9	5	2	20	47	29			
artmouth	9	7	0	18	48	34			
Brown	7	6	2	16	41	41			
it. Lawrence	- 7	8	1	15	55	52			
Jnion, N.Y.		10	0	14	38	60			
larkson	6	9	1	13	35	43			
Princeton	- 4	11	1	9	46	65			
(PI	- 4	11	1	9	38	57			
'ale		13	0		41	68			
Overall records: Cornell 16-4-3, Harvard									
4-5-2, Brown 12-7-3	, Co	lga	te	19-8-1	, D	art-			

mouth 12-9-2, Vermont 15-10-3, St. Lawrence 13-13-2, Princeton 6-15-2, RPI 12-16-2, Clark-son 10-16-2, Union, N.Y. 11-17-1, Yale 4-18-1.

### WCHA

### Atlantic Hockey

W L T Pts GF GA 10 5 3 23 59 44 9 3 4 22 48 40 9 4 2 20 56 42 9 5 1 19 53 43 7 6 3 17 54 47 7 9 1 15 46 49 5 7 3 13 48 54 3 11 1 7 27 54 2 11 2 6 20 101 Canisius Holy Cross Quinnipiac Sacred Heart Mercyhurst Connecticut Bentley American Intl. Army 5 7 3 11 1 2 11 2

Army -12 1 2 6 24 42
Overall records: Holy Cross 12-9-5, Quinniplac 12-10-3, Canisius 12-12-4, Bentley 6-13-4,
Mercyhurst 8-14-4, Sacred Heart 9-15-1,
Army 3-15-2, American International 3-17-1,
Connecticut 8-19-2.

### Golf

### FBR Open

Sunday At TPC at Scott Scott

At TPC at Scottsdale, Scottsdale, Artz.
Scottsdale, Artz.
Purse: \$5.2 million
Phil Mickelson, \$395,000 T164-96-688-267
NeCarron, \$457,000 T2-69-66-68-275
Kevin Na, \$457,600 E-68-68-273
Suprior Scottsdale, \$457,000 T2-69-68-88-273
Sin Heron, \$214,933,337 7-86-67-67-273
Sin Heron, \$214,933,337 7-86-67-69-273

# Lements, 190,100 1, Fernand, 190,100 1, Fernand,

Vijay Singh Tiger Woods Ernie Els Phil Mickelson 12.51 11.82 10.83 7.44 6.76 5.29 5.20 4.75 4.69 4.65 4.57 4.25 3.99 3.97 3.54 3.54 FIJUSAA SAMUSAA AMUSAA AMUSAA AMUSAA SAMUSAA SAMUSA SA 4 Fills Middelson
5. Retief Goosen
6. Serpio Garcia
7. Padraig Harrington
8. Stewart Cirik
8. Stewart Cirik
10. Davis Love III
11. Stuart Appleby
11. Stuart Appleby
12. Adam Sottl
13. Kenny Perry
14. Davis Love III
15. Kenny Perry
15. Chris DiMarco
15. Kenny Perry
15. Chris DiMarco
15. Luke Donald
16. David Toms
19. Luke Donald
20. Chad Campbell
22. Todd Hamilton
22. Todd Hamilton
22. Todd Hamilton 3.51 3.33 3.26 3.23 3.18 3.14 3.07 3.06 3.05 2.73 2.72 2.71 2.69 2.68 2.68 2.64 2.64 2.64 2.64 . Todd Hamilton Jim Furyk Shigeki Maruyama Scott Verplank Lee Westwood Thomas Bjorn Choi Kyung-Ju Peter Lonard Nick O'Hern 30. Nick O'Hem 31. Jay Haas 32. Angel Cabrera 33. Jerry Kelly 34. Paul Casey 35. Tim Clark 36. Fred Couples 37. Jonathan Kaye 38. Craig Parry 39. Rory Sabbatini 40. Charles Howell III

### Deals

### Weekend transactions

### BASEBALL

AMACEALL
AMERICAN LEQUE
TAMPA BAY DEVIL RAYS—Traded OF Jose
Cruz Jr. and cash to Arizona for LHP Casey
Fossum. Agreed to terms with Fossum and
B1 Travis Lee on one-year contracts. Designated OF Matt Diaz for assignment.
BASKETBALL
Castleton

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### TANK McNamara







# Mickelson wins FBR with largest margin

BY BOB BAUM The Associated Press

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. - Phil Mickelson had an awful start in the FBR Open. He was 4 over after nine holes 2 over after 18 Just making the cut seemed a reasonable goal.

What followed was a masterful, dominating performance that gave the Masters champion his first victory of the year, a five-stroke triumph that was the biggest winning margin in his impressive PGA Tour career

"I thought it was going to be a short week. I'd have the weekend off," Mickelson said, "and the next thing you know I was able to turn things around.

That's an understatement. Mickelson was 19 under over the final 54 holes. The comeback began with an 11-under 60 in the second round, followed by a 65, and capped by a 67 on Sunday. As a finishing touch, he rolled in a 25-foot putt from the fringe on the 18th for a birdie, to the wild cheers of a huge crowd that had showered him with encourage ment all week

"I can't wait for next week," said Mickelson, looking forward to the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am. "I can't wait to get back on the golf course. I'm excited about hitting chips, or putts, or tee shots.

Mickelson said he's playing the best golf of his life, that his switch to new golf equipment has added distance to his drives.

Those drives were a bit wild Sunday, when he hit one deep into the desert and another into a pond. But the 24-time PGA Tour winner offset those mistakes with brilliant comeback shots. He turned the desert mishap into a birdie, and salvaged a par out of the water.

Afterward, his daughters,



Phil Mickelson reacts to his birdie putt on the 18th green during the final round of the FBR Open at the Tournament Players Club in Scottsdale, Ariz, Mickelson won the tournament at 17 under par,

Amanda 3-year-old Sophia, rushed to hug their dad on the 18th green.

"Daddy, there's treats after," the voungest one said. The victory in the \$5.2 million event was worth \$936,000. The best-attended tournament on the PGA Tour drew an estimated

Mickelson accomplished his victory in an uncharacteristic

517 000

way, tied for the lead after two rounds and up by four shots going into the final day. "It was a fun week," he said,

"hecause I drove the hall a lot longer than I think I have in years, and was able to have a lot of short irons, too.

With chants of "A-S-U!" and "Go Lefty!" from the crowd everywhere he went, Mickelson finished at 17-under 267 on the Tournament Players Club course. Scott McCarron and Kevin Na.

the altter, at 21, the youngest player on the PGA tour, tied at 272. McCarron shot his second consecutive 65, and Na had a 69, Na played in the final group with Mickelson and faltered before rallying with birdies on the 14th and 17th for his best finish in two vears on the tour.

Steve Flesch Tim Herron and

Toms would have finished in second place but double-bogeyed the

Mickelson a three-time NCAA champion at Arizona State who lived in Scottsdale until Decemher 2001 won the FBR - formerly the Phoenix Open - for the second time. He was just 25 when he won in a playoff with Justin Leonard in 1996.

The par-5 13th might have been the clincher for Mickelson His drive sailed off to the right. into desert terrain amid rocks, small trees and cactus. But the ball landed in a spot where there was an opening, and Mickelson smashed a 5-iron shot some 230 yards over a small tree and just in front of the green. He barely missed from there, then tapped in for a birdie. Na. meanwhile. three-putted for a bogey.

"I was thinking, 'This is my chance. I can make a three-shot swing here if I make eagle and he makes bogey,' "Na said. "It was the other way around.

Then on the par-5 15th, Mickelson drove into the water, but came back to save par.

"I certainly got up and down a lot." he said. "It's nice to have a short game to fall back on if I'm not hitting it the best. I probably didn't strike it nearly as well today as I did the last couple of days, but the score was OK. All I wanted to do was get the 'W' and I did that.

Na, born in South Korea, moved with his family to the United States at age 8. He turned professional at 17, before his senior vear in high school, and earned a spot on the PGA Tour in the 2003 qualifying tournament. He knew the value gained in playing the final two rounds in the same group as Mickelson.

"That experience," Na said. "You can't buy that."

### Canseco claims in book that he gave McGwire steroids

NEW YORK - Jose Canseco says in his upcoming book that he injected Mark McGwire with steroids and introduced several other sluggers to the drugs, the Daily News reported Sunday.

The long-awaited "Juiced: Wild Times. Rampant 'Roids, Smash Hits, and How Baseball Got Big," is scheduled for release by Regan Books on Feb. 21. Regan publi-cist Paul Olsewski told The Associated Press in an e-mail that the release date could be moved up.

Parent company HarperCollins posted a book description on its Web site that said Canseco "made himself a guinea pig of the performance-enhancing drugs" and added the 1988 AL MVP "mixed, matched and experimented to such a degree that he became known throughout the league as 'The

The Daily News did not quote from the book and said it was still being edited. The newspaper would not say how it got the information.

Canseco did not respond to an e-mail from the AP.

Canseco said he, McGwire and Jason Giambi shot steroids together in the bath-room stall at the Oakland Coliseum, the



told the newspaper

McGwire has always denied using steroids. "I have always told

the truth and I am saddened I continue to face this line of questioning," McGwire

Canseco said he introduced Texas teammates Rafael Palmeiro, Ivan Rodriguez and Juan Gonzalez to steroids after being traded to the Rangers in 1992. "Neither our current owner, general

manager and manager were with the Rangers then," Texas spokesman Gregg Elkin said. "The Rangers continue to support baseball's initiative to get steroids out of the game

Canseco also said President Bush, the Rangers' general managing partner at the time, must have known about the steroid

White House spokesman Trent Duffy did not specifically address Canseco's assertion, but said Sunday that Bush's positime," noting that he condemned the drugs in his 2004 State of the Union address

A few years ago, Canseco claimed that 80 percent of major leaguers had taken steroids. Last spring, he said: "I think the numMaybe the numbers have diminished." Canseco hit 462 home runs in a major league career from 1985 to 2001.

Baseball recently adopted a tougher steroid-testing program after the sport came under increased scrutiny about the drugs. Barry Bonds, Gary Sheffield and Giambi testified before a federal grand jury investigating the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Opera-

### D-backs acquire Cruz from Devil Rays

tive known as BALCO.

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — The Tampa Bay Devil Rays traded outfielder Jose Cruz Jr. and cash to the Arizona Diamondbacks on Sunday for left-hander Casey Fossum, then agreed to a one-year contract that guarantees the pitcher \$1.05 million.

In addition, Tampa Bay agreed to a \$1.3 million, one-year deal with free-agent first baseman Travis Lee.

Cruz hit .242 with 21 home runs and 78 RBIs for the Devil Rays last season. He has 175 homers and 535 RBIs during eight seasons with Seattle, Toronto, San Francisco and Tampa Bay.

Cruz won a Gold Glove with the Giants in 2003, but is also remembered for his dropped fly ball in the 11th inning of Game 3 of the division series against Florida. The error allowed the Marlins to rally for a 4-3 victory on their way to the World Series.

Fossum joined the Diamondbacks last offseason as the key prospect in the trade that sent Curt Schilling to Boston. The lefty started 27 games for Arizona, going 4-15 with a 6.65 ERA. He struck out 117 and walked 63 in 142 innings.

Fossum, eligible for salary arbitration for the first time, agreed to a contract that calls for a \$950,000 salary this year.

### Wie to play in Women's British Open

ST. ANDREW'S, Scotland - Michelle Wie will play in this year's Women's British Open, the Ladies Golf Union said Mon-

The 15-year-old Wie accepted a special exception from the LGU to play at the July 28-31 event at Royal Birkdale 'We have followed Michelle's develop-

ment over the last two years with great interest and admiration and in particular her performance in major championships, LGU chief executive Andy Salmon said. "We have no doubt that she is ready to compete with the world's best players at Royal Birkdale.'

Wie is one of five amateurs given exemptions to appear in the 144-player field.

# Corey Dillon picks up a nickname to savor

### Ex-malcontent with Cincinnati becomes a team player with N.E.

BY FRED GOODALL The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. - Selfish. Malcontent. Troublemaker. Corey Dillon has heard all the critical words used to describe him during seven productive but mostly unfulfilling years in Cincinnati.

After one season with the New England Patriots, he's added a more appealing moniker.

"They can call me whatever they want to. Right now I am a Super Bowl champion," Dillon said after Sunday night's 24-21 victory over the Philadelphia Ea-

Labeled a bad teammate with the Bengals, Dillon proved his critics wrong this season by being a perfect fit for a New England team that has thrived on unselfishness while becoming the second franchise to win three Super Bowls in four years.

While many questioned the wisdom of trading for Dillon during the offseason, the eight-year pro never considered the possibility he and the Patriots might not be a good match.

Dillon set out quietly to repair his reputation, and wound up posting a team-record and ca-reer-high 1,635 yards rushing. He did his part against the Eagles, too, gaining 75 yards on 18 car-

ries and scoring on a 2-yard run. The seven-time 1,000-yard rusher also had three receptions for 31 yards.

"This is what I came here for '



New England's Corey Dillon scores on a 2-yard run in the fourth quarter despite the best efforts of Philadelphia Eagles free safety Brian Dawkins.

Dillon said, struggling to find the words to describe his feelings.

"It really hasn't hit me yet. Maybe in a couple of days. ... It has been a long, long time since I felt like this. I have been in a lot of championship games from Pop Warner to junior college to high school, and never won the big game. Tonight, we won the big

Dillon rushed for over 100 yards in nine of 15 regular season games he played. He averaged 4.2 yards per carry against the Eagles, combining with backup

Kevin Faulk (eight carries, 38 yards) to give the Patriots just enough of a running attack to take some of the pressure off quarterback Tom Brady.

"I'm so happy for him," said Pa-triots safety Rodney Harrison, who sealed the victory with an in-

Dillon earned the nickname "Clock-Killin" Dillon" when he ran for 144 yards in New En-gland's second-round playoff victory over Indianapolis. He didn't dominate the Super Bowl, but his TD finished a long drive that

snapped a 14-14 tie less than 2 minutes into the fourth quarter.

"I was thinking we need some more points. They (Philadelphia) are a threat to score at any time. The only thing that was on my mind was trying to get the points to help the team win," said Dillon, who'd never appeared in a playoff game before this season.

The 30-year-old said all he needed was the right situation to bring out the best in him

"God put me in a good place and surrounded me with good people. This whole thing has been a true blessing. ... This is what it is all about," Dillon said. "I had fun. For the first time in

my career, I enjoyed every minute of the season. To actually come here and be the Super Bowl

champions is awesome. Somebody asked where he was a year ago, when the Patriots were winning the second of their three titles as he finished one of

the most frustrating seasons of his career. 'I was on the couch, probably

bloated," the 225-pound running back said. "A year makes a tremendous difference '

### Pats' Crennel goes from top to bottom

BY TOM WITHERS The Associated Press

CLEVELAND - From dynasty to disaster. Romeo Crennel is going from one NFL extreme to

Shortly after helping New England win its third NFL title in four years, the Patriots defensive coordinator accepted an offer to coach the Cleveland Browns, a

chance to advance that he once worried would never come. "I've been in this business for a little while," Crennel said after the Patriots beat Philadelphia 24-21 to seal a place among the league's best teams ever. "I've always been told if you work hard

and you're good at what you do. you'll get an opportunity to move Crennel's agent, Joe Linta, said Browns president John Collins called him "about two minutes" after the game to offer the 57-year-old Crennel, a five-time Super Bowl winner, his first head

coaching job.



Romeo Crennel

working out a contract," Linta said from Jacksonville, Fla. "Hopefully, we can get it done quickly and he can begin putting together a staff."

Linta was scheduled to be in Cleveland on Monday for contract talks. As long as things go well, the Browns will introduce Crennel as their 11th full-time coach - and first black coach. Linta said he will seek a five- or

six-year deal. "He's not like most first-time

coaches," Linta said. "He's a guy with more credentials. Although he hasn't been a head coach, he has five Super Bowl rings. The Browns aren't just getting a coach, they're buying into a program. They are getting 25 years of experience and knowledge."

Crennel's move to Cleveland is no surprise. It had been expected for weeks, and was only delayed because the Browns weren't allowed to have contact with the 24-year NFL coaching veteran while the Patriots were still play-

The Browns are hoping Crennel can bring them back to glory, but there's much work to be done Crennel, who began his pro

coaching career on Ray Perkins staff with the New York Giants in 1981, will be Cleveland's third coach since 1999, when the Browns returned to the league as

an expansion team. Since then, the club has gone just 30-67 and lost its only playoff

game in 2002. Last year, Cleve-land went 4-12. The lone bit of decent news to come out of that woeful season: The Browns will have the third pick in April's draft. This will be Crennel's second stint with the Browns. He was the

club's defensive coordinator in 2000 under Chris Palmer, who was fired after going just 5-27 in two years. In Crennel's one season in charge of Cleveland's defense, the Browns had 42 sacks, an improvement of 17 over the previous year. Before hiring Butch Davis in

2001, the Browns interviewed Crennel, who was a candidate for other openings the past few years but was passed over despite his success and a handful of Super Bowl rings.

He emerged as the Browns' No. choice during a Jan. 7 interview with owner Randy Lerner, Collins and general manager Phil Savage.

### Super Bowl records The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Records set or tied in the 2005 Super Bowl: Individual Records Set Most Wins, Four-Year Span, Head Coach — 3, Bill Belichick, New England. Most Purth Returns, Career — 8, Troy Brown, New England (6, by eight playsown, New England (6, by eight playsown).

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1985). Most Completions, Game, Both Teams – 53, New England (23) vs. Philadelphia (30) (Miami vs. San Francisco, 1985).

"He has accepted, pending us

# Genius, guru, winner

### Belichick's third Super Bowl victory in four years moves him alongside Gibbs. Walsh and Lombardi

By JIMMY GOLEN The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. - Master of details, a football genius, Pa-triots coach Bill Belichick didn't start off too well in the Super Bowl: He jogged to the wrong sideline before the game. That was just about the only

mistake he made.

"He's a guru, man," linebacker Roman Phifer said Sunday night after Belichick guided New England to a 24-21 victory over the Philadelphia Eagles for its third NFL title in four years. "He loves the game - he eats, breathes and sleeps the game. He doesn't leave anything out.'

The victory was Belichick's ninth straight in the postseason and it gave him a career playoff record of 10-1, the best in NFL history, surpassing Vince Lombardi. Commissioner Paul Tagliabue made note of the accomplishment when handing Belichick the championship trophy named for late Green Bay Packers coach.

"I expect that he would have deep admiration for the way you play," Tagliabue told Belichick. It is Belichick's third Super Bowl title as a coach, joining Washington's Joe Gibbs and San Francisco's Bill Walsh and just one behind the four Chuck Noll

won in Pittsburgh. Like them, Belichick can now claim to be leader of a football dynasty.

To me this trophy belongs to these players," Belichick said. "They met all comers this year, a very challenging year. We're thrilled to win. These players played great all year, their best in the big games, and they deserve it, they really deserve it.

44He's got so much

foresight and insight, where he always puts the coachina staff and the plauers and the whole organization in a position to be successful. 17

> **Charlie Weis** New England assistant

Belichick also won two rings as Bill Parcells' assistant with the New York Giants, earning him the derisive nicknames of "Little Bill" and "Tuna Helper." Now Belichick has surpassed his mentor
— and just about every other coach in NFL history, too.

'We started at the bottom of the mountain like everybody else, and we're thrilled to get to the top," Belichick said. "It was one fight against 31 other teams to try to win this Super Bowl and win that trophy. We're happy that we did it. And I'll leave the comparisons and historical perspectives to everybody else.' Belichick's task this time was

to devise a game plan to neutralize Eagles quarterback Donovan McNahh and keen receiver Terrell Owens from breaking open the game. McNabb didn't break free from the backfield once; Owens caught nine passes for 122 vards but wasn't able to reach the

Belichick flunked out of his first head coaching job with the Cleveland Browns when the team fell apart after it was announced at midseason that it was moving to Baltimore Patriots owner Rob ert Kraft liked Belichick enough after the 1999 season to give the New York Jets a package of draft picks that included a first-round choice for the coach.

One of the reasons I hired him, he was understated, he was humble," Kraft said. "He passed his humility on to the team, and that allows us to establish a s of team. The work ethic and intellect of our coaching staff is really

Belichick's task for the offseason is to put together a new staff. Offensive coordinator Charlie Weis is leaving to take over at Notre Dame and defensive coordinator Romeo Crennel has accept-

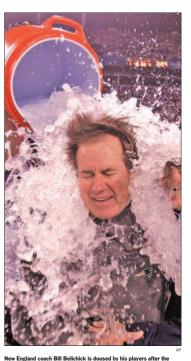
ed the top job in Cleveland But they left as winners

"He makes our job easier. He is such a good leader and he is so prepared," Weis said. "He's got so much foresight and insight, where he always puts the coaching staff and the players and the whole organization in a position to be successful.

"I think that winning is the greatest tribute to his personnel. He's a great football coach and he's a hell of a guy on top of that. Belichick even got a chance for

the traditional ice water bath he's missed during his last two Super Bowl victories because those games weren't decided until the final seconds "I hadn't had water dumped on

me in a long time, but it felt good," he said. "Whenever they dump water on you, that's a good sign. It's when they throw stuff at



Patriots beat the Philadelphia Eagles 24-21 in Sunday's Super Bowl. It was New England's third NFL title in four seasons under Belichick.

# Brady, as always, a cool customer in Super Bowl

BY DOUG FERGUSON The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Never mind who was the MVP of this Super Bowl. Forget about the unlikely return of Ter-

relige about the uninkely return of Ter-rell Owens, the sight of Corey Dillon cele-brating a championship or a New England defense that kept Donovan McNabb on the run, but never let him get very far. This game ultimately was settled by the

quarterbacks, and Tom Brady was super again.

"I felt I was very prepared tonight, more so than ever before," Brady said. "I wish we had gotten things going a little quicker, but I knew I was looking in the right places. He found David Givens in the corner of

the end zone late in the first half, a risky play that paid off for no other reason than the ball was in Brady's magical hands. He led the Patriots on a 69-yard touch-

down drive to start the second half, setting the tone for a final 30 minutes that sent New England to a 24-21 victory and its third championship in four years.

Most importantly, he made only one mis-

take, losing a fumble after an 82-yard drive that didn't result in points, but kept the Philadelphia defense guessing the rest of

McNabb could only wish he turned in such a performance

The Eagles' quarterback acquitted himself well in his first Super Bowl, completed 30 of 51 passes for 357 yards and three touchdowns, including a 30-yard shot to Greg Lewis in the back of the end zone that kept Philadelphia's hopes alive to the last But that's not what he will take away

from this game. "I don't look at the touchdowns. I don't

look at any of that," McNabb said. "I look at the three interceptions. As the quarterback, you want to make sure you take care of the ball. Turnovers kill you. And they hurt us today.

If there was a moment that defined the Brady mystique, it came late in the first half, on a play that easily could have put the Patriots in a 14-0 hole at intermission.

On second-and-goal from the 4, Brady dropped back and looked to his right, then back over the middle With the Eagles pass rush closing in, he saw Givens standing on the far right side of the end zone. Cornerback Lito Sheppard relaxed slighty, perhaps not believing anyone would dare try such a pass.

That was all the hesitation Brady need-

He slung the pass sidearm, some 20 yards across the field, and it arrived just before Sheppard did.

"Tom threw it right where he had to throw it." Givens said. "I looked up and it hit me exactly where I wanted it. Tom placed the ball right on

the money. It had to be. Anything less, and Sheppard had an easy interception - and 100 yards

of grass ahead of him. The touchdown to Givens, that was

about his third read on the play down there," New England coach Bill Belichick said. "That was an outstanding play, because he just read his progression all the way out and made a great read and a throw

That touchdown with 1:10 left in the half forged a 7-7 tie.

Equally impressive, but not nearly as picturesque, was the Patriots' next drive. The Patriots needed to set the tone for

the first half. They had struggled against the Eagles' defense to start the game, picking up only one first down on their first four possessions

The nine-play, 69-yard drive began with a safe, simple route to Deion Branch, the Super Bowl MVP, for 8 yards.

Then came three more good throws to Branch, one on third-and-10. The drive ended with a great read, and another great throw, to linebacker Mike Vrabel, who had lined up as a tight end and fought through a hold by defensive end Jevon Kearse to make a juggling catch.

"Tom played an outstanding game," Beli-chick said. "He hit some big passes, especially those third downs at the start of the second half. That was the key to moving the ball."

Brady joins Terry Bradshaw, Joe Montana and Troy Aikman among quarterbacks with at least three NFL titles: Bradshaw and Montana won four.

McNabb will want another chance to atone for this performance.

The only time he ran was when a screen oass failed, and McNabb was tripped up

for a loss of a yard. He got away with a bad intercention in the end zone — it was nullified by illegal contact on the Patriots - but threw another ball up for grabs that Rod-nev Harrison intercepted moments later in the first quarter.

McNabb's second interception was badly underthrown. And his final one. again by Harrison, set off the Patriots' celebration in the waning seconds.

Brady's only mistake was bumping into Kevin Faulk's hip on a play-action fake on second-and-goal from the 5. The ball hit the ground, and Brady couldn't secure it be-fore the Eagles pried it loose in the pile.

Still, Brady was flawless when he had to be. Just like always when the Super Bowl is on the line

# **MVP Branch steals** the show from T.O.

BY BARRY WILNER

The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. - The somewhat unheralded group of New England receivers now has a Super Bowl MVP among its ranks

While Tom Brady, Corey Dillon, Bill Belichick and nearly every Patriots defender has basked in the spotlight during the team's dynastic run, the wideouts haven't gotten much attention. On Sunday night, though, there was no ignoring Deion Branch in the Patriots' 24-21 victory over the Philadelphia Eagles.

Branch tied a Super Bowl record with 11 catches, gaining 133 yards and making a half-dozen big plays. No longer is Troy Brown the most recognizable New En gland pass-catcher - and Brown got most of his headlines for also playing defense.

"He's our biggest, strongest receiver. He does all the dirty work," Brown said. "He leveled a guy on one of runs down the sideline. He doesn't get enough credit. He's a big-time playmaker. Our whole group of receivers doesn't get the credit they deserve

That's partly because the receivers are so interchangeable. If Branch isn't having a big game, maybe Brown is. Or David Givens Or David Patten Or Rethel Johnson Or one of the tight ends.

But Super Sunday was Branch's star turn. Terrell Owens' return to the Eagles lineup after nearly seven weeks on the side-line with an ankle injury drew the most attention in pregame buildup. And Owens certainly did his part with nine receptions

Still. Branch walked off with a third championship ring and the Pete Rozelle Trophy that Brady took home in the Patriots' last two Super Bowl wins.

"They say big players step up in big games," Branch said.

"All the hoopla was about T.O. He's a great player. He really sucked it up tonight. But I want to show I have the same type of talent as those guys.' Not that anyone with the Patriots doubt-

ed the third-year pro could be so dominant. A second-round pick out of Louisville in 2002, he caught 43 passes his rookie year. He improved to 57 the following year, but missed seven games this season because of a knee injury. He finished with just 35 catches for 454 yards and four TDs.

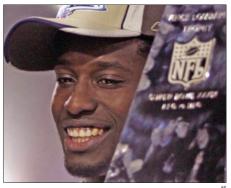
Branch was so frustrated during the recovery process that he didn't travel to every road game.

"My teammates kept pushing me to get better," he said. "They were telling me, 'We're going to need you soon.' I'm just thankful they didn't put me on IR," kr ing injured reserve would have ended his season.

Branch found plenty of free space against the NFL's best secondary. It didn't matter who was covering him or what defense the Eagles were playing.

He played a role in all four scoring drives The biggest catch might have been the last one - a leaping 19-yarder over the middle that set up Adam Vinatieri's 22-yard field goal early in the fourth quarter.

"They did a good job of getting him in



Patriots receiver Deion Branch smiles while holding the Vince Lombardi Trophy on Sunday night. Branch tied the record for receptions in a Super Bowl with 11.

the open zone," All-Pro safety Brian Dawkins said

In all, eight of his catches for 106 yards came on New England's scoring drives.
And his 11 receptions tied Jerry Rice and Cincinnati's Dan Ross for catches in a Super Bowl

Branch has developed into one of Brady's favorite receivers, usually getting the first look when a blitz is coming or a big catch is needed

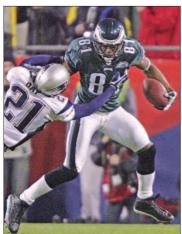
In last year's Super Bowl, Branch had 10 catches and a touchdown in a 32-29 victory over Carolina. Now, he has helped the Patriots become just the second team to win three Super Bowls in four years "He's a very dynamic player," Brady said. "He can do it all — getting open,

doing great things after he caught the ball.

The type of things Owens does. Philadelphia's All-Pro receiver defied his doctor by playing just 6 1/2 weeks after surgery. With a metal plate and two screws in his right ankle, Owens was outstanding.

But Branch was better. 'I think Deion kind of put the Patriots receivers on the map a little more with to-night's game," Givens said. "He got us maybe a little more respect that we probably needed that we didn't have."

### Owens delivers strong a game on a weak ankle



By ROR MAADDI The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Terrell Owens has to save his Super Rowl dance The Eagles' All-Pro receiver caught nine passes for 122 yards

but didn't score a touchdown, and Philadelphia lost 24-21 to the New England Patriots on Sunday night Owens defied his doctor's ad-

vice and was in the starting line-up just 61/2 weeks after ankle surgery. He made several outstanding catches, and proved right away he was no decoy.

"I knew I was going to play all along," Owens said.

Owens caught a 7-yard pass on Philadelphia's second play - his first action since he severely sprained his ankle and broke his eg in a game against Dallas on Dec. 19

had 30-yard catch-and-run later in the first quarter, setting up a first down at the Patriots 8, which the Eagles failed to turn into points. After that catch, the flamboyant Owens flapped his arms along the side-line. He also had a 36-vard reception in the fourth quarter

"For him to come back and play the way he played, I've got a lot of respect for him," Patriots linebacker Mike Vrabel said.

Owens was the target on Mc-Nabb's incomplete pass that started the game, and he hauled in a 9-yard reception on the second nossession He appeared to have no trouble

running his patterns, gaining several yards after his catches. Owens seemed out of breath early on when he went to the sideline, but didn't have to sit out "In this situation, other neonle

like Brett Favre, they would have called him a warrior," Owens said. "For me, they said I was selfish. If I'm selfish, I'm selfish because I want to help my team Owens didn't have any recep-

tions in the second quarter as Mc-Nabb spread the ball around and had better success moving the offense, but had two catches during Philadelphia's game-tying drive in the third quarter and six total in the second half. "It's remarkable how he was

able to come back and played so well for us," said McNabb, who had three TDs passes and three interceptions.

Two days after the Eagles won e NFC championship game, Dr. Mark Myerson, the surgeon who operated on Owens' right ankle in December, said he wouldn't clear him to play against the Patriots.

But Owens insisted he would be in the lineup - not just standing on the sideline leading cheers as he did in the NFC title game when Philadelphia earned its first Super Bowl appearance since

It was a fitting stage for Owens, the playmaking, showboating, brash-talking perennial Pro Bowl receiver. But he was denied an onportunity to perform one of his innovative touchdown celebrations in front of his largest audience.

In his first season with the Eagles after eight years in San Francisco, Owens led Philadelphia with 77 catches for 1.200 vards and 14 TDs. He invigorated the Eagles with his attitude, enthusiasm and exceptional play, adding a swagger to a team that desperately needed a personality.

Myerson inserted two screws in Owens' ankle and a plate on the outside of the ankle three days after he was injured. Owens was told after surgery that he had only an outside chance of returning for the Super Bowl. But he re-habbed vigorously, hoping to help Philadelphia win its first NFL championship since 1960.

With Owens the offense was evtremely potent, averaging 25.4 points in 14 games. After Owens was injured, the Eagles lost the last two regular-season games — but most of the starters hardly

played and others were rested. The Eagles scored 27 points in each of their two playoff victories without Owens. But they couldn't pull out a win with him in the biggest game of all.

"We'll be back on this stage," Owens said. "We lost to a good

Eages wide receiver Terrell Owens tries to push his way past Patriots cornerback Randall Gay (21) after a reception in the first quarter.

# **Ground game plays key part for Patriots**

BY DAVE GOLDBERG The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. - The stat was glaring for the Philadelphia Eagles: 17 rushes, 45 yards.

The four turnovers hurt no doubt As Donovan McNabb said, "We could have been up 14-0

Ultimately, though, what won New England its third Super Bowl in four seasons Sunday was the Patriots' ability to run the ball while preventing the Eagles from

doing the same. No, it wasn't a blowout, just 24-21, but that was predictable, too - New England's Super Bowl wins in 2002 and 2004 also came by three points.

The Patriots didn't need a last-second field goal by Adam Vinatieri this time

It was over when McNabb's desperation pass was picked off by Rodney Harrison with 9 seconds left. But the game turned on a well-balanced 66-yard drive that started late in the third quarter and came right after Philadelphia seemed go gain momentum by tying the game at 14.

So New England established itself as the team of the century (early though it is) and put Bill Belichick ahead of even the great Vince Lombardi with a 10-1 postseason record.

Lombardi would have loved it

Like his Packers of the 1960s, this is such a complete team that there was no clear cut MVP of the game. It turned out to be Deion Branch, who had 11 receptions for 133 yards. But it could have been Tedy Bruschi, Harrison or Richard Seymour, who all made big defensive plays; or quarterback Tom Brady, who took home the award after the Patriots' first two chamni-

"Different plays, different guys," guard Joe Andruzzi said, expressing just what has happened for the Patriots in the last four years, and especially the last two, record in the parity of free agency and the

Lombardi certainly would have loved the drive that gave New England the lead for good early in the fourth quarter. The Patriots ran for 34 vards — including Corev

Dillon's 2-yard TD. New England also got 20 yards rushing on that drive from Dillon's backup, Kevin Faulk, who ran for 8 and 12 yards from a spread formation. Faulk also took a screen pass from the 16 to the 2 to set up Dillon's

"Every time I come in, they yell 'screen! screen' "Faulk said. "So we ran the draw and it worked and then we ran the screen

New England finished with 112 yards rushing on 28 carries. The game also demonstrated the other

characteristic that has made the Patriots into a dynasty in the days of salary caps and unstable rosters. New England gets big plays from all kinds of players. As usual one was Bruschi setting the

tone for the game with a sack on Philadelphia's first possession. Then he made an interception that ended a fourth-quarter drive one play after a 36-yard pass completion to Terrell Owens, who performed better than expected in his first game back after a severe ankle injury.

Harrison had two interceptions, one on his own 3 in the first quarter and the second with 9 seconds remaining.

And when Harrison and Co. weren't stymieing McNabb, they were stuffing Brian

Westbrook Aside from a meaningless 22-vard scamper by Westbrook on the final play of the first half, Philadelphia couldn't run against a defense that often had just two down linemen. Outside linebackers - Willie McGinest, Mike Vrabel and Rosevelt Colvin often played defensive end, making the Patriots' 3-4 defense into a 4-3 that Philadel-

phia didn't seem prepared to attack. Seymour, who had missed five weeks



New England Patriots' Tedy Bruschi celebrates after intercepting a fourth-quarter pass.

with a knee injury, didn't play as much as lanes," said Westbrook, who carried 15 he usually does. But when he did, he was as disruptive as ever.

Belichick said the 4-3 look was designed to put pressure on McNabb. "I don't think we played 3-4 once all day," the coach said But it also worked in shutting down the

"They used the linebackers to jam the guards and we never got any good running

times for 44 yards. The Eagles had that to lament and plenty

else. But they also recognized they were up against a team unlike any other in the NFL.

"I'm proud of my team," Eagles tight end L.J. Smith said. "We have a great coaching staff and a great organization. They won today but we're still a great team."

Patriots 24, Eagles 21

### Dynasty: Owens' return not enough to help Eagles

DYNASTY, FROM BACK PAGE

Donovan McNabb threw a 30-yard touchdown pass to Greg Lewis with 1:48 remaining, but the Patriots recovered the onside kick and ran off all but the final seconds. When Harrison picked off McNabb's last pass at the Philly 28, it was time to party.

Sure, the NFL-planned celebration is virtually impossible to distinguish from one year to the next, but that didn't lessen the Patriots' remarkable accomplishment - especially in the era of salary caps and free agency.

"This is the best ever," offensive tackle Matt Light said. "We have more heart than anyone in the world. This is unbelievable. I love this confetti.'

The Eagles got a huge lift from Terrell Owens, who defied his doctor to play in his first Super Bowl. Just 61/2 weeks after surgery, T.O. had nine catches for 122 yards. Not bad for a guy who was playing with two screws and a metal plate in his right ankle.

"He's amazing, to be able to come out there and do what he did," Harrison said. "You could tell he was still hurting a little bit, but he played tremendous.

But Owens was outshined by New England's Deion Branch, who claimed the MVP award

with 11 catches -Bowl record - for 133 yards. "He epitomizes the way the Pa-

triots win." NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue said Monday. "He has great individual talent ... but all within the context of the team "

It wasn't a flawless game by any means. McNabb (30-for-51 for 397 yards) threw three interceptions, was sacked four times and had a fumble overturned by replay. Tom Brady botched a handoff with Kevin Faulk, leading to a fumble deep in Philly territory

For the most part though the Patriots followed a familiar routine — run the ball (28 carries. 112 yards), limit mistakes in the passing game (Brady was 23-for-33 for 236 yards, with no interceptions) and rely heavily on their defense (the Eagles man-

aged just 45 yards on the ground). The loss extended Philly's excruciating championship drought.

The city's last football title came in 1960. The last title of any kind came 22 years ago, when the 76ers won the NBA champion-

"I was proud of the effort," coach Andy Reid said. "But we came up just short - too many

- and against such a tough football team you can't do that' Now, it's time to start sorting

out the historical significance of another Patriots' Super Bowl title. They have won nine straight postseason games, equaling Vince Lombardi's Green Bay equaling teams. And coach Bill Belichick improved his playoff record to 10-1, one-upping the great Lom-

"As I give you the Lombardi Trophy, I suspect that coach Lombardi would have a deep admiration for how your team played today," Tagliabue told Belichick after the game.

The Patriots had a bumpy road to their latest championship, and in many ways the Super Bowl mirrored those struggles. But, as always. New England found a way to persevere.

Maybe it's their versatility: For the second year in a row, lineback-er Mike Vrabel caught a touchdown pass. He's got five recep-

tions in his career - all TDs Even though the Eagles made it to the Super Bowl for the first time since 1981 - after three straight conference championship flops - their sparkling season ended in disappointment before a sea of mostly green jerseys in the crowd of 78.125.

"We were too sloppy to win," Owens said. "It was great to get back, but we made too many mistakes. We could have won and that hurts

Brady didn't stand out like he did while winning the MVP award at his first two Super Bowls, but he threw two TD pass-es. Branch stepped in to fill the void making off with a new car and an additional piece of hard-

"It doesn't matter who gets what," Branch said.

McNabb looked ordinary, even skittish at times. Maybe it was the four sacks, the persistent pressure and the lack of help from the running game. He threw three touchdown passes, but also made some crucial blunders

In a precursor of what was to come, McNabb caught a break when a first-quarter interception in the end zone was nullified by a defensive penalty. But he wasted the second chance, throwing an-other errant pass that Harrison picked off near the goal line.

After Harrison's second interception in the waning seconds, Belichick sought out offensive coordinator Charlie Weis and defensive coordinator Romeo Crennel Both are leaving for head coaching jobs: Weis at Notre Dame, Crennel with the Cleveland Browns.



"He grabbed me and Romeo at the end of the game and said, 'Hey, it's over,' "Weis said.

What a ride it's been. One for the ages.

# What will come of Garnett as T-wolves rebuild?

would win the NBA championship, but with Shaquille O'Neal moving to Miami, the Sacramento Kings seemingly in decline and the Dallas Mavericks losing Steve Nash, I thought the Timberwolves at least would be in the Western Conference

With all the unlikely stories in the NBA this season, nothing is more shocking than the collapse of Kevin Garnett's Timberwolves, ninth in the West and victims of a 40-point loss at home last week to the Phoenix Suns.

The recent consensus in Minneapolis is it's coach Flip Saunders' fault. Before Sunday's 103-100 loss to Boston, the Timberwolves were outrebounded in 10 straight games. They rank 29th in steals and free-throw attempts, suggesting a team that stands around, is not aggressive and shoots mostly three-pointers

"I've been coaching in the NBA for 10 seasons and coached in the CBA for a long time before that," Saunders said. "This is the first time in 18 or 19 years of coaching pro basketball where I've had a situation where my team has not overachieved.

It seems unlikely Saunders will be let go with a \$4 million contract for next season But if he is, the Timberwolves won't get a better coach. Few better would be availSam Smith



shows all the signs of quitting. He blew off the team plane back to Minneapolis after a loss in his hometown of Milwaukee. He's averaging 12.5 points, six below his career mark, but Sprewell has an insidious disease that infects the team He

doesn't fight through picks anymore, his cuts are lazy and incomplete, he doesn't finish the break, and he stands around when shots are taken

It's the little things that don't show up in the box score that cripple a team. He's bitter about, among other things, not receiving a contract extension and the security given to role players like Trenton Hassell and Troy Hudson

Sprewell could help some team, like Miami, a longtime suitor.

Sam Cassell also is upset about his lack of a new deal, but he is breaking down physically at 35. With the new defensive rules limiting perimeter contact, Cassell is a defensive disaster. When he was out earlier this season, the team played its best, Michael Olowokandi, arrested earlier this season and suspended for a fight, is booed

ing start of Eddie Griffin has deteriorated

into a series of uninterested three-pointers In addition, internal player tension has increased. Some curse when substituted, demand others play fewer minutes or take fewer shots and call for benchings.

Which leads to the big issue: With retooling inevitable, what if Garnett, the reigning most valuable player, wants out? This is his 10th NBA season, and he's no kid anymore. The "loser" label could stick for good in another rebuilding. Garnett blistered his teammates between the third and fourth quarters in Milwaukee with an eynletive-laced plea for interest that was all but

"He's watching the [garbage] that's out there, and it doesn't look very good," Saunders said.

Against the Suns, former DePaul star Steven Hunter noted of the usually talk-ative Garnett: "He was awfully quiet, I didn't see the same passion for the game. It showed on his face.

Teams are now double- and triple-teaming Garnett regularly since his teammates offer little help and have almost no interest in rebounding.

"It felt like high school," said Garnett,

who's doing his part. He leads the league in rebounding and assists, is in the top 20 in scoring and steals

and is No. 1 in the overall efficiency rank-

ing.
Some have criticized Garnett by saying he no longer makes others better. It's little known that he's bothered with knee prob-- he'd never complain - and is furious and beyond frustration about the seem-ingly out-of-control situation.

Garnett is known as a perfectionist who seeks team harmony, and in Minnesota it's anything but, with little sign of change.

Last summer was to be great for Garnett, with his groundbreaking \$128 million contract expiring. Everyone believed, with seven straight first-round playoff ousters. he'd leave for a big market

But Garnett re-signed for five years at a sharp reduction in pay before the 2003-04 season with the condition that the Timberwolves get him help. They did, and Minne-sota had the best record in the West last season. But it was a short-term gamble

with aging players that has backfired. The Timberwolves never would trade Garnett — they'd rather trade everyone else - but what if he demands it?

The Timberwolves would want him out of the conference, and with Jerry Krause gone, he could reappraise the Chicago Bulls. The Washington Wizards now have enough starring pieces to give up. So does the Orlando Magic.

A Garnett trade seems unlikely. But at this time last year, so did O'Neal's depar-

### Rockets hold off Odom-led Lakers

Yao Ming came through in the clutch to secure a victory for Houston - and put an end to Lamar Odom's bid to almost single-handedly beat the Rock-

Yao rebounded a rare miss by Odom, then went on to make a couple of shots from the line with 15.3 seconds and give the Rockets a 103-102 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers on Sunday.
"We did everything in the last three quarters you

would usually do to lose," Rock-ets coach Jeff Van Gundy said. NRA

roundup

"We got a good cushion and then they dominated the game in the second half." Odom scored 14 of his 22

points in the final period and led the Lakers back from a 16-point deficit in the fourth quarter to a three-point lead

with a flurry of baskets, deft passes and a block. The fourth quarter was the Lamar Odom Show. Rockets guard Tracy McGrady said. "He was doing

everything. He was making things happen.' After Odom's miss, the Rockets got the ball down low to Yao, who muscled his way between a couple defenders and was fouled. He calmly hit two free throws to put the Rockets ahead.

"I knew I could make that because I had missed too many before," said Yao, apparently unaware that he went 5-for-6 from the line en route to 23 points. "It's great to get the win."

Los Angeles forward Brian Cook missed a potential winning three-pointer with 2.9 seconds to play, and the Lakers fumbled away the ensuing rebound as the clock expired. Cook flashed a pained smile as the Rockets

stormed onto the court, and Yao pumped his fist before running into a mob of teammates to celebrate another close win 'When it came off my fingers it felt good," Cook

said. "If I had that shot again, I'd take it 10 more McGrady had 21 points and Bob Sura had 19 points, 12 rebounds, eight assists and five steals for the Rockets, who have won four straight and eight of

their last 10 Chucky Atkins added 21 points for the Lakers who came up just short in their bid to win for the first time under interim coach Frank Hamblen. Hamblen took over Wednesday when Rudy Tom-

janovich resigned as coach, citing health concerns. 76ers 106, Clippers 104: Allen Iverson scored 28 points, including the winning free throws with 1:01 to play.



Lakers forward Lamar Odom tries to drive against Rockets center Yao Ming. Odom scored 14 points int he fourth quarter to lead a rally that fell short.

The Sixers completed a 3-1 homestand and moved within one game of .500 (23-24).

Kyle Korver had 16 points and Andre Iguodala

added 15 for the Sixers. Bobby Simmons led the Clippers with 27 points, Elton Brand had 21 and Chris Kaman 18

Mavericks 122, Raptors 113: Dirk Nowitzki had 30 points to help visiting Dallas outlast Toronto. Dallas led by as many as 25 points in the third quarter, but the Raptors cut it to four before Jason Terry's three-pointer gave the Mavs a seven-point lead with 36 seconds left

Michael Finley added 23 points for the Mavericks, who shot a season-high 60 percent from the field. Chris Bosh had a career-high 29 points for the Raptors and Jalen Rose added 22.

Celtics 103, Timberwolves 100: At Minneapolis, Paul Pierce scored 32 points, including 15 in the third quarter, to lead Boston to its third straight vic-

Michael Olowokandi had a season-high 21 points and nine rebounds for the Timberwolves, who lost their fifth straight.

### **NBA** scoreboard

Eastern Conference Atlantic Division W L 24 24 23 24 .500 .489 20 20 18 27 28 29 35 14 27 19 25 22 10 34 9 37 .587 .532 .227 19 19 22 24

### Western Conference

10 15 28 21 27 21 8 39 .571 .563 .170 ion 13 24 24 21 26 20 26 16 31 .711 .500 .447 .435 .340 75:00 38 11 32 15 24 21 23 25 13 34 games

Sunday's gam
Dallas 122, Toronto 113
Boston 103, Minnesota 100
Philadelphia 106, L.A. Clippe orc 104 Houston 103, L.A. Lakers 102 Monday's games Indiana at Washingto L.A. Lakers at Atlanta

Indiana at Washington
Indiana at Washington
Golden State at Miami
Philadelphia at New Jersey
New York at Utah
Toronto at Tuesday s games
Golden State at Orlando
San Antonio at Charlotte
Boston at Milwaukee
Minnesota at Memphis
Utah at Denver
Phoenix at Sacramento
New Orleans at Seattle
Charlotte at Indiana
Memphis at Philadelphia

Memphis at Philadelphia San Antonio at Washington L.A. Clippers at Boston Milwaukee at Toronto Miami at New York L.A. Lakers at New Jersey Denver at Minnesota icago at Houston w Orleans at Portland

### Sunday Mavericks 122, Raptors 113

DALLAS — Howard 8-12 1-2 18, Nowitzk 13-22 4-4 30, Dampier 5-9 3-9 13, Finley 9-14 3-3 23, Terry 6-8 1-2 15, Stackhouse 4-8 3-4 11 3-3 23, Terry 6-81-2 15, Stackhouse 4-83-411, Dew.Harris 2-4 5-6 10, Henderson 0-1, 2-2 2, Armstrong 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 47-78 2-32 122. TORONTO - Rose 9-17 1-1 22, Bosh 8-12 13-1429, Araujo 0-1 0-00, Peterson 8-152-2 21, Alston 6-16-0 - 13, Marshall 7-9 0-0 19, Palacio 2-33-47, Bonner 1-1 0-0 2, E.Williams 0-1 0-0 0, Murray b4-0-0. Totals 41-79 19-21 113.

32 33 28 29-122 24 28 29 32-113 

### Celtics 103. Timberwolves 100

BOSTON — Pierce 8-16 15-16 32, Lafrentz 3-10-07, Riount 3-72-28, Allent 3-13-12, ACR 2010-16-18 (2), Davis 5-11, 2-12, 2, ACR 2010-16-18 (2), Davis 5-11, 2-12, 2, ACR 2010-16-18 (2), Davis 5-11, 2-12, 2, ACR 2010-16-18 (2), ACR 2010-18 (2

Boston Minnesota Three-Point Goals—Bost 22 26 29 26-103 20 25 31 24-100 Minnesota 20 25 31 24-100 Three-Point Goals-Boston 3-12 (Payton 1-1 Pierce 1-2, LaFrentz 1-3, Welsch 0-1, Allen 0-1, McCarty 0-2, Davis 0-2), Minnesota 2-9 (Holberg 2-4, Sprewell 0-1, Hudson 0-1, Cassell 0-3), Fouled Out-None. Rebounds-Boston 46 (LaFrentz 15), Minnesota 49 (Garnett 13), Assieta-Boston 19 (Daviton 7-4, Villence. 13). Assists—Boston 19 (Payton 7), Minneso ta 29 (Cassell 9). Total Fouls—Boston 22, Min nesota 21. Technicals—Payton, Minnesota De fensive Three Second, Minnesota coach Saun ders, Szczerbiak. A—16,174. (19,006).

### 76ers 106, Clippers 104

LA. CLIPPERS — Simpons 9-17 8-9 27, Brand 7-14 7-7 21, Kaman 7-11 4-5 18, Ross 6-12 2-2 15, jarie 0-2 0-0 0, Brunson 1-4 6-6 9, Rebraca 4-5 3-3 11, Moore 1-3 1-2 3, Totals 35-68 31-34 104. PHILADELPHIA — Korver 5-9 2-3 16, Tho-mas 4-9-6-10 14, Dalembert 3-5 2-4 8, Iverson mas 4-9-6-10 4, palember 1-5-2-4-8, Nerson 10-23 7-8 28, Iguodala 3-4-8-8 15, Jackson 1-6 2-2-4, Salmons 1-1 1-2-4, Williamson 5-9-4-4 14, McKle 1-1 0-0 3, Totals 33-67-32-41 106. L.A. Clippers 21 26-32 25-104 Philadelphia 24-24-32 26-106

### Rockets 103, Lakers 102

L.A. LAKERS - Jones 5-12 5-5 18, Odom 8-18 6-9 22, Mihm 5-9 1-2 11, Atkins 6-9 5-6 21, But-ler 7-11 0-0 14, Walton 3-4 1-17, Grant 0-10-0 0, Cook 3-11 0-0 7, Brown 1-4 0-0 2. Totals 3h-79 18-2-3 102. HOUSTON — McGrady 8-24 4-5 21, Howard 3-8 0-0 6, Yao 9-18 5-6 23, Wesley 7-11 0-0 19, Sura 7-14 3-5 19, Padgett 2-6 0-0 4, Mutombo 0-0 0-0, Strickland 0-3 0-0, Barry 2-5 0-0 6, Weatherspoon 2-21 -25, Bowen 0-0 0-0. To-tals 40-91 13-18 103.



### CONGRATULATIONS

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# Illini give Indiana freshmen a lesson

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. - Indiana coach Mike Davis said he gave his young team a "growing-up pill" by starting four freshmen against top-ranked Illinois.

"I just figured they never be in this situation or have this opportunity to play the No. 1 team in the country as a fresh-man on the road in a tough place to play," Davis said Sunday after the Hoosiers lost 60-47 to the

unbeaten Illini. James Hardy replaced injured

guard

Bracey Wright and joined fellow first-year play-ers D.J. White, A.J. Ratliff and Robert Vaden, leaving junior Marshall Strickland as the only upperclassman in the starting lineur

The Illini (23-0, 9-0 Big Ten) threatened to make it a blowout early, taking a 20-3 lead behind the sizzling passes of point guard Deron Williams, who had assists on Illinois' first seven baskets.

"I thought we came out really unfocused," said White, who had 12 points. "We had a really bad start to the game. But we battled

The Hoosiers (10-10, 5-4) outscored the Illini 17-6 over the final 8:15 of the first half to cut the deficit to 26-20, but Illinois opened the second half with a 13-2 run to take control.

"I'm not sure our guys were mentally ready to play like we need to," Illini coach Bruce Weber said. "They sat in the lock-er room disappointed. They didn't feel real good about themselves Illinois won its 19th straight

regular-season Big Ten game and its fifth in a row over Indiana despite its lowest-scoring game this

While Illinois struggled against the Hoosiers' zone, Indiana was



Illinois' James Augustine dunks on a breakaway during the first half of Sunday's game against Indiana.

being held to its lowest output since a 55-45 loss to Notre Dame

"I think we can shut down anybody in the country if we defend body in the country if we defend and just play in a frenzy like we al-ways do," said guard Dee Brown, who scored 12 points. "Ever-body's looking at the offensive game, especially the fans, but I think we win games off our de-

Illinois and No. 5 Boston College (20-0) are the only unbeaten teams remaining in Division I.

No. 2 North Carolina 81, Florida St. 60: At Tallahassee, Fla., Rashad McCants had 16 points for the Tar Heels (19-2, 8-1 Atlantic Coast Conference), who blew the game open with a 25-6 run in the second half. Raymond Felton had 14 points for North Carolina

Von Wafer had 14 points for the Seminoles (11-11, 3-6), who ral-lied from an 18-point first-half deficit to get within 49-48 before the Tar Heels ran away.

### Navy gets revenge in rout

Tai

The Associated Press ANNAPOLIS. Md. -

Mathews scored a career-high 26 points Sunday to lead Navy to an 84-69 victory over Army.

Mathews was 6-for-14 on three-pointers in his final Army-Navy game, leading five Middies in double figures.

Mathews also added a career-high eight rebounds.

Greg Sprink added 14 points, including four three-pointers, and 10 rebounds for Navy, which made a season-best 13 threes in a season-high 34 attempts.

Matt Fannin and Corey Johnson added 12 points each and George O'Garro scored 11 for Navy (7-15, 3-6 Patriot League). Navy avenged a 63-43 loss at

Army on Jan. 23 and prevented an Army sweep of the series for the first time since 1992.

Navy held a big rebounding ad-vantage over the Knights (47-29)

and made 23 free throws to Ar-

Army (3-18, 1-8) was led by Grant Carter's 21 points, all on three-pointers. Matt Bell added 16 points and Colin Harris 12. The teams tried a combined 57

three-pointers. Navy's 13 three-pointers were the second-most in school history Navy jumped to a 12-1 lead as

Army missed its first seven shots and didn't score a basket over the first six minutes.

The Middies ran the lead to 34-19 before Army went on a 13-0 run to end the half. Navy didn't score over the final 4:22 of the half, missing its final six shots.

The teams were tied 37-37 with 18:38 to play when Navy went on a 14-2 run to build a 51-39 advantage with 14:10 to play.

Army again rallied, closing to 71-67 with 3:50 to play as Carter hit three three-pointers, but Navy had too much down the stretch.

# **SPORTS**



# Team for the ages

### Dynasty talk builds with Pats' third Super title

BY PAUL NEWBERRY The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. - The whole thing must have seemed routine to the New England Patri-ots: confetti fluttering across the field, fireworks brightening the night sky, a carefully choreo-graphed championship trophy presentation.

Downright ordinary, right?

Hardly.
The Patriots became Till-fledged dynasty with their third Super Bowl victory in four years, beating the Philadelphia Eagles 24-21 Sunday night. New England claimed a spot

alongside the Green Bay Packers of the 1960s, the Pittsburgh Steel-ers of the '70s, the San Francisco 49ers of the '80s, the Dallas Cow-boys of the '90s.

A team for the decade. A team for the ages.
"We're champions now. That's

" safety Rodney Harrison said. "I don't know about dynasty.

Trust us, Rodney, this group fits the definition in every re-spect. New England becomes just the seventh franchise to claim back-to-back titles. The Cowboys are the only other team to win the championship three times over a

four-year period.

Typically, the Patriots didn't leave themselves much room. All three of their Super Bowls have been decided by three points the previous two on last-second field goals by Adam Vinatieri. By comparison, only two of the first 35 Super Bowls were within field goal range at the end

But what they lack in style, the Patriots more than make up with their steely determination to do whatever it takes to win. When the Eagles jumped to a 7-0 lead, New England responded with a touchdown of its own late in the

first half. When Philadelphia tied the game at 14 late in the third quarter, the Patriots marched right down the field for Corey Dillon's 2-yard touchdown. And, in a fit-ting bit of synergy, Vinatieri booted a 22-yard field goal with 8:40 remaining that provided the mar gin of victory

SEE DYNASTY ON PAGE 29



### Inside:

■ Brady nearly flawless in leading team to third title in four years. Page 31

**■** Dillon caps image repairing season with championship, Page 30





■ Belichick, like team, puts his name among legends, Page 31

■ Patriots receiver Branch overshadows Owens' return to claim MVP award, Page 32



KRT PHOTOS

Above: Super Bowl MVP Deion Branch of the New **England Patriots holds the** Lombardi Trophy with head coach Bill Belichick after a victory over Philadelphia Sunday in Jacksonville, Fla, Left: Philadel phia receiver Terrell Owens walks off the field after his team's loss. Owens, who is recovering from an ankle injury and played against his doctor's wishes, finished with nine catches for 122 vards.

Mickelson earns first victory of the year Page 29

